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PART IX.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

TURKISH WAR.

June 1913.

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138	Sir F. Bertie ..	304	June 11,	British tobacco companies in ceded territories. Refers to No. 13. Bulgarian and Greek Governments have given French Government to understand that they are not opposed to free export of tobacco (see Nos. 300 and 301).. ..	103
139	Sir G. Lowther ..	274 Tel.	11,	Murder of Grand Vizier. Refers to No. 120. Minister for Foreign Affairs has been appointed *interim* Grand Vizier. Complete order prevails, but stringent martial law has been applied (see No. 142).. ..	103
140	Sir H. Bax-Ironside..	206 Tel.	11,	Serbo-Bulgarian relations. Czar has telegraphed to Kings of Bulgaria and Servia stating that he would arrange matters in dispute, and urging immediate demobilisation. Bulgarian answer has been that arbitration can only be accepted within the limits laid down in the treaty .	103
141	Mr. O'Beirne ..	211 Tel.	11,	South Albanian frontier and Ægean islands. Views of Minister for Foreign Affairs regarding two alternatives suggested in No. 109. Has suggested that Germany might urge moderation on Austria (see No. 145)	104
142	Sir G. Lowther ..	275 Tel.	12,	Murder of Grand Vizier. Refers to No. 139. Many arrests made, and extraordinary precautions taken. Suggests that, under the circumstances, "Zealandia" should remain at Constantinople for a few days (see No. 161)	104
143	Sir R. Paget ..	139 Tel.	12,	Serbo-Bulgarian relations. Position of M. Pashitch very difficult. If war cannot be avoided he will resign. Russian Minister thinks only means of averting war would be a collective *démarche* by Powers, but Italian and German representatives have not received instructions on subject	104

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146	„ „ ..	213 Tel.	12,	Serbo-Bulgarian relations. An answer to Czar's telegram has been received from King of Servia. It is on the whole satisfactory	105
147	Consul-General Lamb	47 Tel.	12,	Græco-Bulgarian relations. Refers to No. 130. Return of King of Greece postponed till 16th June. 8th Division of Greek army is being brought to Salonica from Epirus	105
148	To Sir G. Lowther ..	255 Tel.	12,	Murder of Grand Vizier. Instructions to convey condolences of His Majesty's Government to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs	105
149	To Sir R. Paget ..	94 Tel.	12,	Relations of allies. Refers to No. 129. Instructions to urge on Servian Government desirability of accepting arbitration at St. Petersburgh, pointing out dangers of refusal (see Nos. 165 and 153) ..	105
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152	To Sir F. Bertie ..	232 Tel.	12,	Financial Commission. War indemnity. Is concerned at uncompromising attitude of Russia regarding (see Nos. 172 and 193)	106
153	To Sir H. Bax-Ironside	120 Tel.	12,	Serbo-Bulgarian relations. Refers to No. 149. Instructions to urge Russian proposal on Bulgarian Government, and to support Servian request for reduction of forces (see Nos. 167 and 239) ..	106
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157	To French Ambassador (M. Cambon)	..	12,	Moslem refugees. Confiscation of property. Refers to No. 81. Transmits Bulgarian note enclosed in No. 81. Requests his Excellency's views upon it (see Part X, No. 170)	108
158	Sir F. Bertie ..	305	12,	Financial Commission. Representation of Ottoman Debt on. Has informed French Minister for Foreign Affairs of No. 14. Latter's views	108
159	Sir H. Bax-Ironside..	208 Tel.	12,	Serbo-Bulgarian relations. Servian Government have handed in note suggesting that Bulgaria and Servia should gradually reduce forces to a quarter of present strength. In case of refusal, Bulgaria will be held responsible for all untoward incidents. Immediate answer requested (see No. 209)	109
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162	Sir F. Elliot ..	91 Tel.	13,	Relations of allies. Russian arbitration. Refers to No. 151. Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs unwilling to accept Russia as sole mediator. Reasons. He is most pessimistic (see No. 179)	109
163	Sir G. Barclay ..	75 Tel. Confidential	13,	Relations of allies. Attitude of Roumania. Russian Minister suspects Austria of urging Roumania to bargain her neutrality against territorial concessions from Bulgaria. Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs has said that, until war broke out Roumania would do her utmost in the cause of peace (see No. 337)	110
164	Sir R. Paget ..	141 Tel.	13,	Relations of allies. Consul at Monastir reports that general orders have been sent to Servian officers to resist Bulgarian advance, as in case of Valandovo ..	110
165	„ „ ..	142 Tel.	13,	Relations of allies. Has communicated No. 149 to Prime Minister, who is willing to submit to arbitration provided treaty is set aside. Danger of situation increased by feeling that war is inevitable sooner or later	110
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179	To Sir F. Elliot ..	85 Tel.	14,	Relations between allies. Refers to No. 162. Thinks first step is for Premiers to go to St. Petersburgh. If that fails other forms of arbitration could be considered. We could not participate unless invited by both parties	115
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185*	Admiralty	Confidential	15,	North Albanian frontier. Transmits telegram from vice-admiral at Scutari reporting danger of Malissori rising against Montenegrin troops in Hoti country	119*
186	Count de Salis ..	98 Tel.	15,	North Albanian frontier. Transmits telegram from vice-admiral at Scutari reporting possibility of trouble between Malissors and Montenegrin troops (see No. 187)	120
187	„ „ ..	99 Tel.	15,	North Albanian frontier. Malissors and Montenegrins. Refers to Nos. 173 and 186. Situation very awkward. Difficulty of advising King to withdraw his troops..	120
188	Sir F. Elliot ..	92 Tel. Very Conf.	15,	South Albanian frontier. Greek Government prepared to make concessions on coast in hope of securing valley of Drin, Premeti, and Koritza (see No. 216) ..	120
189	„ „ ..	93 Tel.	15,	Relations of allies. Reduction of forces. Refers to No. 63. Austrian Government decline to join in representations (see No. 378)	120
190	„ „ ..	94 Tel.	15,	Relations of allies. Prince Nicholas of Greece has left Salonica for St. Petersburgh to state Greek case to Czar ..	121
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192	Sir G. Buchanan ..	218 Tel.	16,	Relations of allies. Russian arbitration. Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs seems satisfied with replies from Belgrade and Sophia (see No. 255)	121
193	„ „ ..	219 Tel.	15,	Indemnity. Refers to No. 152. Has explained position to Minister for Foreign Affairs, who replied that he would be content if object could be achieved by reduction of allies' debt quota (see No. 218)	121
194	„ „ ..	221 Tel.	15,	South Albanian frontier. Refers to No. 145. Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs suggests Greece should be pressed to yield on question of Stilos in return for Koritza (see No. 200)..	121
195	Sir G. Lowther ..	282 Tel.	16,	Movements of British ships at Constantinople. "Zealandia" leaves 16th June ..	122

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197	„ „ ..	96 Tel. Confidential	16,	South Albanian frontier. Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs hears that His Majesty's Government are inclined to abandon attempt to settle frontier question. Implores them not to leave Greece alone to face Austria and Italy (see No. 217) .	122
198	Sir H. Bax-Ironside	212 Tel.	16,	Relations of allies. Refers to No. 63. Austrian Minister will not join in any representation which would have appearance of supporting Servia. Austria is encouraging Bulgarian attitude ..	122
199	Sir R. Paget ..	147 Tel.	16,	Relation of allies. Refers to No. 181. M. Pashitch has withdrawn his resignation, and will go to St. Petersburgh if necessary	122
200	To Sir G. Buchanan.. „ Sir F. Bertie ..	456 Tel. 236 Tel.	16,	South Albanian frontier. Refers to No. 194. Sir E. Grey proposes commission to settle details of frontier. Requests views of Minister for Foreign Affairs (see No. 215)	123
201	To Sir H. Bax-Ironside	86	16,	British claims against Bulgarian Government. Refers to Part VIII, No. 440. His Majesty's Government cannot approach Bulgarian Government till full information on claims has been obtained	123
202	„ „ ..	88	16,	Outrages. Serres court-martial. Refers to Part VIII, No. 436. His Majesty's Government are glad to learn that some of the culprits have been punished, but regret to hear that Tchakof has been set at liberty	124
203	To Sir F. Elliot ..	62	16,	Relations of allies. Transmits note communicated by Greek Minister stating that Greek Government have proposed reduction of forces *entente à quatre*, and, if necessary, arbitration	124
204	„ „ ..	63	16,	Conclusion of peace. Greek Minister complains that Turkish delegate has suddenly refused to sign supplementary protocols on vakoufs, amnesty, prisoners, &c. He would be much obliged if Sir L. Mallet would say a word to the Turks on the matter	125
205	To Sir G. Buchanan..	220	16,	Relations of allies. Czar has sent strongly-worded telegram to Kings of Bulgaria and Servia	125
206	Sir F. Elliot ..	97 Tel.	17,	South Albanian frontier. Kutzo-Vlachs. Greek Government have offered to Roumanian Government to grant to Kutzo-Vlachs of Pindus all privileges granted to those in Bulgaria under protocol of St. Petersburgh. No answer having been received, some uneasiness is felt as to ulterior objects of Roumania or her supporters	125
207	„ „ ..	98 Tel. Confidential	17,	Ægean islands. Is informed that Italian Government have offered to hand over islands in Italian occupation with exception of Stampalia to Greece, and that Greek Government are disposed to agree (see Nos. 233 and 245) ..	125

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209	Sir H. Bax-Ironside..	213 Tel.	17,	Serbo-Bulgarian relations. Refers to No. 159. Bulgarian Government have replied to Servian note on reduction of forces, proposing a condominium in all disputed territories (see No. 269)	126
210	„ „ ..	214 Tel.	17,	Relations of allies. Hears that Greek and Servian Governments have decided to send delegates to St. Petersburgh. Bulgarian Government have come to no decision, but will probably endeavour to make conditions before sending delegates	126
211	Sir R. Paget ..	148 Tel.	17,	Relations of allies. M. Pashitch, if he goes to St. Petersburgh, will go for purpose of having a full discussion with Premiers of allied States, not for direct purpose of submitting Serbo-Bulgarian differences to arbitration	126
212	Sir G. Barclay ..	77 Tel.	17,	Relations of allies. Attitude of Roumania. Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs says that, if war breaks out, Roumania will occupy line from Turtukai to Baltchic	126
213	Consul-General Lamb	49 Tel.	17,	Græco-Bulgarian relations. Precautions are being openly taken against Bulgarian *coup de main* on Salonica. Considerable anxiety in town	127
214	Sir F. Bertie ..	80 Tel.	17,	South Albanian frontier and Ægean islands. French Minister for Foreign Affairs agrees with views of His Majesty's Government, but wishes to have formal assurances from Italian Government that they will hand over to Greece islands in their occupation. He has good reason to know that Koritza can be obtained for Greece. French Government can in no circumstances permit retention of islands by Italy	127
215	Sir G. Buchanan ..	222 Tel.	17,	South Albanian frontier. Has communicated to Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs *aide-mémoire* embodying No. 200 .	127
216	To Sir F. Elliot ..	88 Tel.	17,	South Albanian frontier Refers to No. 188. Sir E. Grey has told M. Skouloudis that His Majesty's Government would continue to urge a solution not altogether impossible for Greece to accept	127
217	„ „ ..	89 Tel.	17,	South Albanian frontier. Refers to No. 197. Sir E. Grey has told M. Skouloudis that it is not true that His Majesty's Government had decided to leave Greece to settle alone with Italy and Austria	128
218	To Sir F. Bertie ..	238 Tel.	17,	Financial Commission. War indemnity. Instructions to ask British delegates on Financial Commission to furnish observations on Nos. 172 and 193 (see No. 238)..	128
219	To Sir H. Bax-Ironside	90	17,	Relations of allies. Reports conversation with Bulgarian Minister, who was leaving to take up Ministry of Interior at Sophia. Sir E. Grey urges peaceful policy. Bulgarian Minister replies that there are difficulties with military party in Bulgaria	128

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221	„ „ ..	226	17,	Relations of allies. Russian Ambassador has enquired whether Sir E. Grey would accept mediation of the three *Entente* Powers if both Greece and Bulgaria asked for it	129
222	To Sir F. Cartwright	124	17,	North Albanian frontier. Transmits two notes communicated by Austrian Ambassador relative to protection of religious minorities in Servia and Montenegro, and to evacuation of Albania by Servian troops	129
223	„ „	125	17,	Relations of allies. Transmits communication from Austrian Ambassador stating that Austrian Government will not join in suggesting demobilisation, since this would support Servian suggestion ..	130
224	To Admiralty ..	.	17,	Turkish naval preparations. Transmits No. 118. Suggests warning Turkish Government against ruinous outlay on Dreadnoughts (see Part X, Nos. 216 and 571)	131
225	Sir G. Lowther ..	525	14,	Relations of allies. Military movements at Cavalla. Transmits despatch from acting vice-consul reporting on arrival of Bulgarian troops, and relations between Greek and Bulgars	131
226	„ „ ..	526	14,	Relations of allies. Transmits despatch from consul-general, Salonica, reporting Bulgarian severities against Greeks in zone of Bulgarian occupation. Similar oppression reported in Servian and, to a less extent, in Greek sphere of occupation (see No. 381)	132
227	Sir F. Bertie ..	314	17,	Financial Commission. Transmits despatch from British delegates reporting on proceedings of second and third meetings of the Commission	133
228	Sir G. Lowther ..	285 Tel.	18,	New Turkish Cabinet. Cabinet has been reformed. Said Halim Pasha is Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs; Izzet Pasha, Minister of War; Mahmoud Pasha, Minister of Marine; Talaat Bey, Minister of the Interior. New Cabinet is of a more Committee complexion than its predecessor (see No. 286)	135
229	„ „ ..	287 Tel.	18,	Relations of allies. Reduction of forces. Refers to No. 63. Austrian Ambassador says he has no instructions to make communication in favour of reduction of forces. Some days before he said he had	135
230	Sir H. Bax-Ironside..	215 Tel.	18,	Relations of allies. Transmits report of military attaché on distribution of Bulgarian troops	135
231	Sir F. Cartwright ..	87 Tel.	18,	Relations of allies. Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Servian Minister at Vienna very pessimistic as to attitude of Bulgaria	135

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234	To Sir F. Bertie ..	378	18,	Seizure of Ottoman fiscal stamps. Refers to Part VIII, No. 35. Transmits No. 30. Suggests reference of matter to Financial Commission. Instructions to inform French Minister for Foreign Affairs and ask his views	136
235	Sir R. Crawford to Sir W. Tyrrell	Confidential	11,	Turkish finance. Question of temporary financial measures. Buildings at Tophané might be mortgaged. Importance of effective reforms in Asiatic Turkey. Suggests temporary mixed commission to draw up scheme	137
236	Sir F. Elliot ..	20 Consular	18,	Lighthouses, buoys, and mines at Salonica. Transmits two notes from Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs on subject	138
237	Sir F. Bertie ..	320	18,	Financial Commission. Transmits despatch from Sir P. Harvey relative to first meeting of committee on contracts and concessions, and asking for copies of contracts and concessions held by British subjects ..	139
238	Mr. Carnegie to Mr. Maxwell	..	18,	Financial Commission. War indemnity. Refers to No. 218. Transmits memorandum containing observations on Russian and French attitude on indemnity question, and opposing any substantial reduction of allies' share of Debt	140
239	Sir H. Bax-Ironside..	216 Tel.	18,	Relations of allies. Refers to No. 153. Dr. Danef says Bulgarian Government is anxious to demobilise, but only if condominium were established in occupied territory. He would not accept arbitration unless it were on lines of treaty. His attitude not unconciliatory, considering his disposition (see Nos. 270 and 380) ..	141
240	Sir G. Barclay ..	78 Tel. Very Conf.	19,	Relations of allies. Attitude of Roumania. King of Roumania has told French Minister that Bulgaria had made no proposals to Roumania, and that, in any case, Roumania would not allow Servia to be crushed. If war broke out, Roumania would occupy line Turtukai–Baltchic (see No. 337) ..	141
241	Sir F. Elliot ..	101 Tel.	19,	Relations of allies. Greek Premier thinks that, unless strong pressure is put upon Bulgaria, there will be war within ten days. He thinks Bulgaria will buy Roumanian neutrality, and is almost inclined to prefer war to intervention of Europe ..	141
242	Sir R. Paget ..	149 Tel.	19,	Relations of allies. Servian Government have refused Bulgarian demand for condominium. Feeling in Belgrade decidedly pessimistic	142
243	Sir H. Bax-Ironside..	217 Tel.	19,	Relations of allies. Refers to No. 123. Bulgarian reply to Servian note despatched 18th June. It amounts to a refusal to accept revision of treaty	142

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245	„ „ ..	105 Tel.	19,	Ægean islands. Refers to No. 207. Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs emphatically denies negotiations with Greece, but avoids categorical denial of desire to retain Stampalia (see No. 252)	142
246	„ „ ..	106 Tel.	19,	Relations of allies. Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs fears deadlock in negotiations between Bulgaria and Servia ..	143
247	„ „ ..	107 Tel.	19,	Ægean islands. Turkish evacuation of Tripoli Refers to No. 244. Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs has no official confirmation of departure of Turkish troops from Cyrenaica, but further departures are reported in the press (see No. 259)	143
248	To Sir F. Bertie ..	383	19,	South Albanian frontier. French Minister for Foreign Affairs agrees to procedure for delimitation of South Albanian frontier proposed by Sir E. Grey, but considers that Greek wishes should, in return, be fully met in respect of islands..	143
249	Sir F. Bertie ..	323	19,	Financial Commission. Transmits despatch from Sir P. Harvey reporting proceedings of (see No. 344)	143
250	„ „ ..	325	19,	Financial Commission. War indemnity. Transmits despatch from British delegates pointing out difficulty of relieving Balkan States from part of their share of debt, and at the same time safeguarding interests of bondholders	144
251	Sir G. Lowther ..	290 Tel.	20,	Organisation of Albania. Protection of minorities. Transmits telegram from Œcumenical Patriarch requesting safeguards for religious *status quo* in Albania	145
252	Sir F. Elliot ..	102 Tel.	20,	Ægean islands. Stampalia. Refers to No. 245. There is no doubt that Italian Minister made communication as to Stampalia. How far it represented his personal opinion only must be left to conjecture (see No. 335)	146
253	Sir R. Paget ..	150 Tel.	20,	Relations of allies. Bulgarian reply concerning revision of treaty amounts to a decided refusal. Servian Government, while rejecting idea of condominium, are renewing proposal for reduction of forces	146
254	Count de Salis ..	100 Tel.	20,	Relations of allies. Attitude of Montenegro. Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs says Montenegro will support Servia in case of war. Bulgaria was making advances to Essad Pasha, but Montenegro had advised him to keep quiet, and come to an understanding with Ismail Kemal Bey (see Nos. 291 and 339)	146

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256	Viscount Kitchener ..	75 Tel.	20,	Turkish evacuation of Tripoli. Refers to No. 259. Rumour of withdrawal of Turks reported at Sollum, but not yet confirmed	147
257	To Sir G. Lowther ..	271 Tel.	20,	Financial Commission. Concessions. Commission ask for copies of any contract or concession held by British subjects in ceded territories. Instructions to send any that can be obtained	147
258	To Mr. Carnegie .. „ Sir G. Buchanan..	243 Tel. 466 Tel.	20,	South Albanian frontier. Sir E. Grey has suggested to German Ambassador solution of question by a commission, taking Stilos as starting point of line, but settling hinterland, especially Koritza, by ethnographical and geographical considerations. German Ambassador feared Austria would not accept (see No. 373)	147
259	To Viscount Kitchener	72 Tel.	20,	Turkish evacuation of Tripoli. Transmits No. 247 (see No. 256)..	147
260	To Sir R. Paget ..	37	20,	Relations of allies. Servian Chargé d'Affaires complains bitterly of Bulgarian attitude, and refuses to submit to arbitration question of validity of Treaty	147
261	To Sir E. Goschen ..	199	20,	South Albanian frontier. Sir E. Grey has suggested to German Ambassador solution of question by a commission, taking Stilos as starting point of line, but settling hinterland, especially Koritza, by ethnographical and geographical considerations. German Ambassador feared Austria would not accept (see No. 373)	148
262	To Sir F. Cartwright	127	20,	North Albanian frontier. Austrian Ambassador complains that Russia has altered terms of formula respecting religious minorities in Servia. Sir E. Grey reminds him that similar complaints have been raised against the Austrian delay in confirming promise of Servian access to Adriatic and says that question of formula should be settled between Austria and Russia	148
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Further Correspondence respecting the Turkish War.

Part IX.

[25084] No. 1.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 253.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 1, 1913.*

GRAND Vizier, in reply to my question whether peace protocol signed by the first Ottoman delegate and M. Danef implies demobilisation of Turkish troops at Chatalja, replied evasively saying that Turks must be prepared for all eventualities in case hostilities occurred between the Balkan allies. I gather that in Committee circles the hope is entertained that in the event of war between Bulgaria and her allies Turkey may be able to get Ergene River line as price of her neutrality.

(Repeated to Sophia.)

[25089] No. 2.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 193. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 1, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 185 of 28th May.

Emperor of Russia and German Emperor have urged King of the Bulgarians through representatives here to use his utmost endeavours in favour of peace. His Majesty has replied that he will not fail to do so.

Meanwhile Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs has invited allied Governments to confer at St. Petersburgh to settle all differences between them, saying that, if they refuse, heavy responsibility will rest on them.

I understand that acceptance of Greece and Servia has been given already, and that of Montenegro is a formality. King of the Bulgarians is likely to support proposal, and Prime Minister is also personally favourable to it, but is likely to meet considerable opposition from military party.

His Excellency is just leaving for meeting with Servian Prime Minister.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[25104] No. 3.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Salonica, June 1, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 40 of 29th May.

Arrival of General Ivanof with Servian Minister at Athens and Greek Minister at Belgrade yesterday is believed to have produced a *détente*, the former's instructions being understood to be of a conciliatory nature.

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[25240]

No. 4.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 121.)

Athens, May 26, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to subjoin an account, summarised from the daily reports published in the Greek press, of a triumphal progress from which His Royal Highness the Crown Prince George has just returned, to the principal places on the outskirts of the territory in Greek occupation.

Leaving Athens on the 12th May, the Prince arrived at Salonica on the 13th and left on the 14th by train for Monastir; stopping at the stations of Verria, Niaousta, Vodena, Sorovitz, and Florina, at each of which he was acclaimed by the population and received addresses, including some from Mussulman deputations expressing gratitude for the treatment they are receiving under Greek administration. At Florina an exarchist priest expressed similar sentiments.

At Monastir His Royal Highness was officially received by the Servian authorities, and entertained them at dinner at the Greek consulate.

On the 15th he left by motor car for Korytza, where he arrived in the afternoon. The reception was most enthusiastic along the whole route. On his arrival His Royal Highness received the metropolitan, the mayor (a Mussulman), and a delegate of the mufti who assured him of their fidelity and devotion. His Royal Highness addressed the crowd from a balcony, and assured them that Korytza would remain Greek under the sceptre of King Constantine.

On the 16th he received deputations from the villages of the district not occupied by Greek troops, some of which are entirely Mussulman, praying to be saved from incorporation in Albania. On the 17th among other occupations His Royal Highness visited the mosque. He left the city the same day for Premeti, passing through Kolonia and Konitza, where the same demonstrations were repeated, including those of the Mussulmans.

After spending the night at Premeti and visiting the mosque the Crown Prince arrived at Yannina in the afternoon of the 20th. After service in the cathedral His Royal Highness went to the Konak, where he received deputations from the Greek, Mussulman, and Jewish communities of Yannina, from the Greek and Mussulman communities of Prevesa, Paramythia, Margariti, and Parga, and from the Greek community of Metsovo. He afterwards assisted from a balcony at a public meeting in the principal square, at which memorials addressed to the Emperor of Russia, the King of Italy and yourself were voted by acclamation.

On the 22nd His Royal Highness visited Argyrocastro, where similar scenes took place. The mufti, after service in the mosque, declared in a harangue that the Mussulmans were of the same blood as the Greeks, and could only live in happiness with them. The Prince laid the first stone of a Royal palace to be erected by subscription among the people of the town.

On the 24th he arrived at Delvino, where he received a memorial from the inhabitants of Khimara declaring that they are and will remain Greek, and will burn their villages and die to the last man rather than accept any other solution than union with Greece. In the afternoon he proceeded to Santi Quaranta, where he embarked in the "Sphacteria" for Piræus, calling at Corfu. His Royal Highness returned to Athens yesterday, and is to join the staff of His Majesty the King at Salonica immediately.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

[25112]

No. 5.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 481.)

Constantinople, May 29, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to enclose herein copies of four despatches (Nos. 18–21), which I have received from His Majesty's vice-consul at Cavalla, bearing on the question of Greco-Bulgarian relations.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

Acting Vice-Consul Morgan to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 18.)

Cavalla, May 7, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that a conflict occurred on the evening of Monday, the 5th May, between Bulgarian troops and Greek soldiers and villagers at Dranitch (north of Pravishta). The casualties on both sides were small. Nine wounded Bulgarian soldiers (including two severely wounded) have been brought to Bademli Chiftlik, near Cavalla. There are also rumours of another conflict near the villages of Avli Keuy and Elejikli (south-west of Pravishta). Communication between Cavalla and Pravishta is forbidden

Yesterday the Governor of the town of Cavalla summoned some of the leading members of the Greek community, and after informing them that incidents had taken place between Greeks and Bulgars in the Pravishta district, impressed on them the necessity of restraining any excitement among the Greek population and of warning them against taking any part in any incidents that might take place between Bulgarian and Greek soldiers, in case the latter ever succeeded in reaching Cavalla by sea or by land, or in any demonstration or attempt against the Bulgarian regulars. Any action of the populace against Bulgarian troops would immediately entail the burning of the town by the Bulgarian soldiery and the severest punishment of the Greek citizens.

On hearing the result of this interview, the Greek bishop visited the consular representatives here to take their advice as to what line of conduct he should pursue in this matter. We suggested that he should fall in with the Governor's instructions, and should advise his flock to behave with the greatest care and discretion towards the Bulgarian forces.

Three Greeks were yesterday arrested and imprisoned on the charge of plotting against and inciting the population against the Bulgarian local authorities.

The two heavy siege guns mentioned in my immediately preceding despatch have been mounted at Gedik, a pass leading into the Drama plain and situated about 2½ miles west of Cavalla, on the Cavalla–Drama road. Eight old-pattern mountain guns have for some time past been in position outside the town, four at Gedik and four on a hill 3 miles east of Cavalla, near the Cavalla–Sarishaban road.

Yesterday the Maria Pavlova regiment of cavalry arrived here from Xanthi viâ Sarishaban.

Further proofs of the tension in Greco-Bulgarian relations are to be found in the general prohibition against leaving the town, the arrest and imprisonment of all Greeks found out of doors after 9 P.M., and the imposition by the Greek Government of three days quarantine against Cavalla, although no contagious disease exists here.

The feelings of military and civilian Bulgarians here against the Greeks in general are very bitter, and if any incident arises in Cavalla it will undoubtedly go hard with the native population.

I have, &c.
JAMES MORGAN.

Enclosure 2 in No. 5.

Acting Vice-Consul Morgan to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 19.)

Cavalla, May 10, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that fighting is still going on in the neighbourhood of Pravishta between Greeks and Bulgarians.

Artillery firing was heard from the direction of Pravishta yesterday afternoon, and again in the evening from the direction of Leftera. (Pravishta is a town some 10 miles west of Cavalla; Leftera is a hamlet and harbour west of the Gulf of Cavalla.)

Sentries have been posted at the entrance of the town and no one is allowed to leave Cavalla.

A determined attempt is being made to dislodge the Greeks from Leftera. A small engagement between Bulgarian regulars from Pravishta and the Greek troops at Leftera took place two days ago. Yesterday a number of the newly-raised Macedonian recruits left Cavalla for Leftera, to assist the regular Bulgarian forces there.

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Seven field guns which have been for some time stored in the Cavalla barracks were yesterday transported to Pravishta.

To-day all horses, &c., in Cavalla have been requisitioned by the authorities.

I have, &c.
JAMES MORGAN.

Enclosure 3 in No. 5.

Acting Vice-Consul Morgan to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 20.)

Cavalla, May 12, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that in the conflicts between Greeks and Bulgarians in the Pravishta, the Bulgarians seem, so far, to have gained the advantage.

Reliable news of what is going on in the troubled area is difficult to obtain, owing to the prohibition against persons entering or leaving Cavalla, but the course of events, gleaned rather from Bulgarian sources, would seem to be as follows :—

Conflicts seem to have taken place in three separate regions—one at Dranitch, Paleohor, and Nikisjan (villages on the eastern slopes of Mount Pangheion—ending in the occupation of the Greek villages of Paleohor and Nikisjan by Bulgarian troops, and the driving out of the Greek soldiers—another near Pravishta, at Avli Keuy and Ilidjik—ending in the capture of the Greek village of Avli Keuy, with some forty Greek regulars, and a third near the Russian monastery of Nouzla, between Pravishta and Leftera, in which four Bulgarian regiments are said to have taken part. According to Bulgarians, the Greeks were driven back and Leftera was occupied by Bulgarian troops, the Greek garrison being driven out. One Bulgarian officer was killed in this engagement.

Bulgarian troops from Drama are reported to have occupied all villages on the northern slopes of Mount Pangheion and those on the western slopes, north of and including Radolivos. The bulk of the Greek forces is concentrated in Mustenja (west of Pravishta) and in the villages west of Mustenja.

The number of Bulgarian casualties is uncertain. Twelve wounded have been brought to Cavalla, and a number are being attended at Bademli Chiftlik (situated about 5 miles along the Cavalla–Drama road).

Tchakoff, a Bulgarian voivode, who has been for some time in prison in connection with the murders of Turks by irregulars at the beginning of the war, has been set at liberty and is at present in Cavalla. It is probable that he will be put at the head of a Bulgarian band to operate against Greeks in these parts.

The port of Cavalla has been declared closed to navigation.

I have, &c.
JAMES MORGAN.

Enclosure 4 in No. 5.

Acting Vice-Consul Morgan to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 21. Confidential.)

Cavalla, May 19, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that although actual fighting between Greeks and Bulgarians ceased some days ago at Pravishta, military precautions and measures adopted at the time of the conflict have by no means been relaxed.

Troops and guns continue to arrive in the district; the town of Cavalla remains under martial law; the port is still closed to navigation, and all letters and telegrams sent from here must be previously submitted to the Government censor for inspection. Trenches are now being dug, obviously through fear of a possible Greek attack at Kalamitsa on the sea coast, 3 miles west of Cavalla.

On the 9th May an order was issued that no one should leave the town, and sentries were posted on all roads leading out of the town to prevent anyone passing. As a railway accident occurred at Buk on that day, in which many Bulgarian soldiers were killed or wounded and the line was blocked in consequence, the authorities may have issued the order to prevent any news of the accident reaching the Greek forces, and thus tempting them to attack the local Bulgarian troops at a time when they knew that the railway could not be utilised for bringing up reinforcements.

According to local Bulgarians a sailing boat endeavoured to slip out of Cavalla Harbour on the night of the 10th May after the closing of the port, but was captured. Letters were found on board, and plans of military positions in Cavalla.

The number of Bulgarians killed and wounded in the conflicts near Pravishta is uncertain, but their losses seem to have been heavy. The wounded are being tended in Bademli, Chiftlik (near Cavalla), Drama, Serres, and Xanthi.

Leftera Harbour still remains in possession of the Greeks, and steamers ply regularly between it and Salonica. Yesterday a Greek torpedo destroyer entered that port.

The newly-raised Macedonian recruits received their baptism of fire against the Greeks near Nouzla monastery (near Leftera), and their officers are quite satisfied with their bearing on that occasion.

The present continual reinforcement of the Bulgarian forces in the Cavalla–Drama–Serres region would seem to indicate that the relations between Greeks and Bulgarians are still far from being satisfactory, and that the process of the settlement of the Greco-Bulgarian frontier question may still be rendered difficult by "incidents" between the troops of the two allies.

If one may judge by the expressed opinions of local Bulgarian officers and officials, a conflict with Greece is inevitable, unless Greece consents to give up Salonica to Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
JAMES MORGAN.

[25113]

No. 6.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 2.)

(No. 482.)

Constantinople, May 29, 1913.

Sir,

THE "Official Gazette" of the 19th and 20th instant contains the following three enactments :—

1. Regulation on the settlement of immigrants, dated the 30th April, 1329 (13th May, 1913).
2. Provisional law sanctioning the raising of a loan of £T. 3,000,000 by the Agricultural Bank for the benefit of immigrants, dated the 2nd May, 1329 (15th May, 1913).
3. Regulation on the mode of advancing to immigrants the moneys to be borrowed under (2), same date as (2).

These enactments do not deal specifically with the present refugee problem, though they are doubtless designed to meet it. The regulation (1) contemplates two kinds of immigrants, those who leave their own country with the permission of the Government thereof and abandon their nationality in favour of Turkish nationality, and those who take refuge in this country and apply for enrolment as Turkish subjects.

It sets up a central and a provincial machinery to deal with all such immigrants who are to be settled on agricultural land, or, in the case of industrials, put in the way of practising their trade. The only expenditure which seems to be contemplated as non-recoverable is that incurred for temporary relief and the despatch of immigrants to their new homes. All expenditure in their establishment, including the cost of land if it cannot be provided gratis, is to be recoverable in instalments spread over a long period. The cost of public buildings, mosques, schools, fountains, &c., is recoverable in the same way. The whole population of each newly-formed village is to be jointly responsible for the liabilities under these heads of individual immigrants. Immigrants are exempted from military obligations for six years and from State taxes for two years. Those who have received land gratis are forbidden to sell it within less than ten years. Those who have received both land and the other aids contemplated by the law (houses, two head each of live stock, seed-corn, and implements in the case of agricultural settlers) cannot sell their land or houses, &c., until their liabilities to the State have been extinguished.

The law (2) authorises the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture to raise a loan of £T. 3,000,000, of which £T. 500,000 is to be set aside for temporary relief and despatch of immigrants to their new homes. The remainder is to be employed on the other purposes indicated above by way of loan to the immigrants. All forest revenues of the State are to be paid direct to the bank, which is to utilise what is necessary in

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order to meet its liabilities in connection with the loan and pay any balance to the Treasury. The regulation (3) annexed to this law provides, *inter alia*, that repayments by peasants are to be spread over twenty-five years. They are apparently liable not only for the amount expended on settling them but also for interest on the same.

I have &c.

GERARD LOWTHER.

[25263] No. 7.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 105.) *Belgrade, May 29, 1913.*

Sir,

M. PASSITCH delivered yesterday before the Skupshtina his *exposé* of Servian foreign policy from the commencement of the war until the present moment. He prefaced his speech by the statement that the situation *vis-à-vis* to Bulgaria was one calling for considerable reserve; owing to the secret character of the Servo-Bulgarian Treaty it was impossible to disclose it. After briefly reviewing the situation immediately antecedent to the war, the Prime Minister broached the question of Albania. Here he made two statements:—

1. That the Powers, by identifying themselves with Austrian policy, had set their face against a definite settlement of the Balkan question. This would prove a source of trouble and anxiety for many years to come.

2. That Austria-Hungary, by pursuing such a policy, had missed her opportunity of gaining the lasting sympathies of the Balkan races, as well as the political and commercial hegemony of the Balkans.

Passing to the question of the partition of the conquered territory, the Prime Minister stated that as between Servia, Greece, and Montenegro that partition presented no special difficulty. With regard to the frontiers of Albania, he expressed the hope that the Powers would see their way to rectify the injustice inflicted on Servia by the north and north-eastern delimitation as at present arranged.

Proceeding to review relations with Bulgaria, M. Passitch emphasised the fact that unforeseen events and developments had rendered a revision of the Servo-Bulgarian Treaty imperative. He proceeded to justify this statement by the arguments of which you have already been placed in possession. The Servian Government had already, in February last, asked the Bulgarian Government in writing for a revision of the treaty. This request was now being renewed.

The Prime Minister then laid stress on the fact that having been deprived of the Adriatic coast, Servia felt it a vital necessity to obtain free and undisturbed access to Salonica for her export and import trade. This she could only obtain were the Uskub-Monastir and Monastir-Salonica lines open to her, and were the Servian frontier to be conterminous with that of Greece.

M. Passitch then made a somewhat remarkable statement. He said that in the course of the negotiations respecting Albania, an offer had been made to Servia of the entire valley of the Vardar, together with Salonica, in exchange for her voluntary abandonment of the Adriatic coast. The Servian Government had, however, refused this offer, as they held its acceptance to conflict with their duties as allies, and because they felt confident that the assistance they tendered to their allies would be finally recognised and rewarded, even if such assistance were not stipulated for under treaty. (The "Srpska Zastova," the organ of the Nationalist party, commenting on this statement, says that if such an offer had indeed been made, it was an unpardonable blunder not to have accepted it.)

M. Passitch concluded by saying that the Servian Government had always loyally fulfilled their duties towards their allies, and that in demanding a revision of the treaty they were animated by the same friendly feelings towards Bulgaria as existed at the time of its signature.

The speech has, on the whole, met with a very favourable reception from the Servian press. I hear, however, that within the Skupshtina it has been criticised in some quarters as not sufficiently aggressive towards Bulgaria, and too conciliatory towards Austria. But undoubtedly its general effect has been to strengthen M. Pasitch's position in the country.

I have, &c.

DAYRELL CRACKANTHORPE.

[25260] No. 8.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 285.) *Paris, June 1, 1913.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith the accompanying copy of a note from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs relative to the indemnity to be paid to the family of the murdered Mussulman rural guard in Crete, which has crossed the note which I addressed to his Excellency in a similar sense in compliance with the instructions conveyed to me in your despatch No. 333 of the 29th ultimo.

I have, &c.

FRANCIS BERTIE.

Enclosure in No. 8.

M. Pichon to Sir F. Bertie.

Paris, le 29 mai, 1913.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

EN m'entretenant à la date du 19 avril dernier des questions que pose l'annexion de l'île de Crète à la Grèce, votre Excellence a bien voulu me signaler l'urgence que présenterait, aux yeux du Gouvernement britannique, le règlement de l'indemnité due à la veuve et à la famille du garde champêtre musulman assassiné près de Réthymo, indemnité dont le chiffre serait à prélever sur les fonds de la surtaxe de 3 pour cent.

Dès la réception de la lettre de votre Excellence, j'avais invité le consul général de France à La Canée à me faire connaître, après s'être concerté avec ses collègues, à quelle somme il convenait de fixer l'indemnité à payer aux victimes de cet attentat. D'après les indications reçues de l'agent français à La Canée, le corps consulaire aurait été d'avis de fixer le montant de cette indemnité à 6,000 fr., le Gouvernement grec ayant décidé d'allouer une somme égale à la famille d'un autre musulman assassiné récemment dans les mêmes conditions.

J'ai l'honneur de faire connaître à votre Excellence que je viens d'adresser des instructions au consul général de France à La Canée en l'autorisant, au cas où ses collègues recevraient des instructions analogues, à prélever sur le produit de la surtaxe 3 pour cent une somme de 6,000 fr. destinés au payement de l'indemnité dont il s'agit.

Agréez, &c.

(Pour le Ministre et par intérim),

PALÉOLOGUE.

[25533] No. 9.

Conditions mises par la France à son Concours financier et fiscal à la Turquie.—(Communicated by M. Cambon, June 2, 1913.)

AFFAIRES religieuses et scolaires: délivrance d'office et sans frais des firmans réglementaires, statut des écoles, impôts, &c.

2. Observation en toutes circonstances du principe que les ressortissants français ne peuvent être détenus dans les prisons ottomanes.

3. Reconnaissance de la qualité de ressortissants français aux Tunisiens et aux Marocains.

4. Signature et mise en vigueur par iradé Impérial du compromis d'arbitrage dont le texte a été soumis à la Porte ottomane, le 16 mars, 1910.

5. Octroi au groupe recommandé par le Gouvernement français de la concession garantie ou de la construction et de l'exploitation, sur la base déjà envisagée, des lignes de chemin de fer suivantes:—

Samsoun à Sivas et Karpout avec privilège, dans le cas où le projet Chester ne recevrait pas de suite, pour le prolongement jusqu'à Diarbekir; Tourkhal à Tokat; Zihlé à Yosgat; Tchalta à Erzinghian, Pékiridj et Erzeroum, et éventuellement Trébizonde à Pékiridj, étant entendu, en ce qui concerne ces deux dernières lignes, que le concessionnaire sera tenu d'accepter les délais de construction qui lui seront fixés par le Ministère Impérial des Travaux publics après entente entre les Gouvernements ottoman et russe.

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ALL WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE

6. Concession à la Compagnie Damas-Hamah et prolongement de la ligne du chemin de fer de Rayak à Lydda et du privilège de son prolongement éventuel jusqu'à El Arisch, avec assignation pour la garantie de cette ligne des excédents des dîmes affectées à la garantie de cette de Rayak à Alep.

7. Établissement entre la Compagnie Damas-Hamah et prolongement de l'administration du chemin de fer du Hedjaz d'un arrangement laissant à la ligne de Beyrouth à Damas la totalité du trafic entre Damas et la mer.

8. Concession aux groupes, qui seront recommandés par le Gouvernement français, dans des conditions en permettant la construction et l'exploitation, des ports d'Inéboli, d'Héraclée, de Tripoli, de Caïffa et de Jaffa, et en outre de ceux de Trébizonde et de Samsoun dans le cas où le contrat d'études intervenu pour ces deux derniers avec la Banque nationale de Turquie ne recevrait pas de suite.

[25385] No. 10.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 254.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 2, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 231 of 30th May.

In view of the Porte's note and our reply (see my despatch No. 949 of 8th November last), it would be difficult to obtain firman for ship to replace the "Zealandia," and, as stated in my telegram No. 224 of 9th May, it would be desirable to retain her until commencement is made with disbanding of the army in the neighbourhood of the capital.

[25402] No. 11.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 191. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 2, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of 1st June.

It is with much satisfaction that I am able to inform you that at the meeting late last night, after a full exchange of views, Bulgarian and Servian Premiers agreed that Prime Ministers of the four allied countries should meet in order to discuss all the questions affecting the Balkan States. Communiqué to this effect will be published to-day.

Meeting will take place at once in a Balkan town, probably Salonica, as allies are most anxious to arrange their affairs if possible without intervention of a Great Power. If this procedure fails, they will hold a conference at St. Petersburgh.

Greek and Bulgarian Premiers will have a preliminary meeting in order to discuss matter affecting their two countries only.

Details respecting meeting will be settled in a few days.

(Sent to Constantinople and Belgrade.)

[25422] No. 12.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 133.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 2, 1913.*

SERVIA and Bulgaria.

Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs informs me that the Prime Minister is on his way back from meeting with the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the only news he has of the result of the meeting is hat it has been agreed that the Prime Ministers of the four allies should meet to discuss matters.

[22655] No. 13.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 341.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 2, 1913.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copies of two letters from the London Chamber of Commerce,† expressing, on behalf of those of its members who are interested in the manipulation and importation of Turkish tobacco grown in Macedonia, a fear lest the transfer of territory from the Ottoman Empire to the Balkan States may bring about a situation whereby the interests of the British companies might be most seriously affected should the export of tobacco be declared a Government monopoly.

While I do not think that in strict law His Majesty's Government would have any right to resist the institution of a monopoly by a State in its own territory unless they held treaty rights from such a State forbidding the establishment of such a monopoly, yet the position of British firms who have sunk capital in the business on the assumption that the country would remain under Turkish law, which permits the purchase and export of tobacco, would be a very hard one in the eventuality outlined by the Chamber of Commerce.

I have therefore to request your Excellency to enquire of the Government to which you are accredited their views on the subject, in order that, if possible, His Majesty's Government may be able to do something on behalf of British subjects in consultation with the other Powers, some of whom appear already to be taking a very active part on behalf of their respective nationals.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[23031] No. 14.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.‡

(No. 344.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 4, 1913.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 229 of the 4th ultimo, relative to the representation of the administration of the Ottoman Public Debt on the International Commission about to meet in Paris to settle the financial questions arising from the present war, I have to request you to inform the Government to which you are accredited that His Majesty's Government adhere to the view which they have already expressed on the subject.

They are not, however, insensible to the force of the arguments put forward by the German, Austro-Hungarian, and Italian Governments, which tend to show the desirability of giving the administration the opportunity of expressing their views to the commission.

I am of opinion that, in the circumstances, the proper course for the administration of the Debt to pursue is to select a financial expert agreeable to themselves to proceed to Paris, not as a member of the commission, but with the object of making the views of the administration known to the delegates who, in their turn, would have the opportunity of consulting him, should they desire to do so, on all points as to which they might require information.

I have to request your Excellency to make to the Government to which you are accredited a communication in this sense.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

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* Also to Sir E. Goschen (No. 169), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 117), Sir R. Rodd (No. 145), and Mr. O'Beirne (No. 211), *mutatis mutandis*.

† London Chamber of Commerce, December 30, 1912; Part VIII. No. 12.

‡ Also to Sir E. Goschen (No. 174), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 119), and Sir R. Rodd (No. 146).

[23699] No. 15.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 348.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 5, 1913.

WITH reference to Foreign Office telegram No. 209 of the 20th May, I transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Athens,* reporting that, in view of the representations made, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs had issued instructions to the local Greek authorities at Salonica to desist from their intention of examining the accounts of Ottoman officials with the Imperial Ottoman Bank at that town.

I propose to take no further action in the matter, beyond instructing Sir F. Elliot to thank M. Coromilas for his Excellency's attitude.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[25841] No. 16.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 351.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 2, 1913.

M. CAMBON spoke to me to-day about the Bagdad Railway, urging that as regards the Financial Commission in Paris it would be very desirable that we should not make to Germany promises with which France could not be associated. The French Government were quite ready to come to an agreement with Germany about the Bagdad Railway, and would like the whole matter cleared up and got out of the way. He asked whether I could not suggest this to the Germans.

I said that I had already suggested to Herr von Kühlmann that the Germans should talk to the French about the railway. We had said that we would not oppose the railway if the Germans made with us the proposed agreement. It would now be for the French to get what guarantees they wanted for the region in which they were interested in railways, and then I hoped that the French and ourselves might come to an agreement with Germany as to the financial arrangements to be made by the Financial Commission in Paris in support of the railway.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[25844] No. 17.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 352.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 2, 1913.

M. CAMBON spoke to me to-day of the desire of the Russian Government that the Balkan allies should be advised to apply to the Triple *Entente* for mediation in the difficulty that the allies had between themselves. M. Pichon was opposed to this; it would break up the union of Europe, and it did not seem necessary, as the allies themselves had not asked for it.

I observed that I did not like the suggestion at all. If Russia, France, and England proposed mediation it might very well be that one or more of the allies might not be disposed to accept it, and might apply to the Triple Alliance for support. I thought that the plan of the Russian Government of getting all the four Prime Ministers to go to St. Petersburgh was much the best. If this failed, the difficulty would be a matter for all the Powers.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

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* Part VIII, No. 415.

[25845] No. 18.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Goschen.

(No. 177.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 2, 1913.

THE German Ambassador gave me to-day the following letter in connection with the Bagdad Railway:—

"Dear Sir Edward, "*London, May* 31, 1913.

"According to your desire, expressed in a previous conversation, I beg to give you the wording which we propose for the clauses intended to be put at the end of our contemplated agreement concerning the Bagdad Railway. The text would run as follows:—

(Translation.)

"'The preceding arrangements for the final settlement of all questions connected with the Bagdad Railway shall become operative only under the express condition—

"'1. That the result of the Paris Financial Commission's decisions shall guarantee that all losses which the Bagdad Railway may suffer through the rearrangement of conditions in the Balkans should be fully compensated by mortgaging other sources of revenue of equal value and, at least, equal security;

"'2. That the Turkish Government shall assign as guarantee sufficient sources of revenue for the building and running of the whole line from Konia to Basra, including branch lines, which, according to the concession, are entitled to guarantees.'

"I may explain that the question of providing adequate means for the Bagdad Railway does not seem bound up in principle with any increase in the customs. Experts point out that, provided Turkey is not burdened with a war indemnity of any sort, she will be able to find the necessary guarantees. Sources of such revenues seem to be the 'excédent des revenus diverses,' administered by the Dette publique, and perhaps the old 8 per cent. *ad valorem* duties of places where traffic is likely to increase after the completion of the Bagdad line.

"Believe me, &c.
"LICHNOWSKY."

He said that there were one or two other points that his Government thought should be considered. If we were to have two directors on the Bagdad Railway, German public opinion would expect one German director on the Navigation Company and one on the company that had charge of the dredging of the Shatt-el-Arab.

I said that we should be prepared to guarantee that the navigation would be kept open, and the Navigation Company would of course require a port. The Bagdad Railway had, I understood, the right to construct a port at Bagdad and Basra, but not necessarily the only port. It seemed to me, therefore, that the best plan would be for the Bagdad Railway Company to discuss with the British element of the Navigation Company how the ports should be made.

The Ambassador suggested that this and other details of the Bagdad Railway question should be discussed between Herr von Kühlmann and Mr. Parker or someone in this Department.

I agreed to this.

I urged that the Germans should discuss the question of the Bagdad Railway with the French, if a satisfactory agreement was to be come to at the Financial Commission in Paris for providing guarantees for the railway.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[25846] No. 19.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir R. Rodd.

(No. 149.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 2, 1913.

THE Italian Ambassador told me to-day that Turkey was reproaching the Italian Government somewhat earnestly, in consequence of the suggestion that the Ægean islands occupied by Italy should be ceded to Greece, and not go back to Turkey.

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The Italian Government were very sensitive on this point, and he wished the position to be clearly understood. Italy could be no party to the islands being given back to anyone but Turkey. If another arrangement was to be made, it must be made by the Powers and Turkey without Italy. But if another arrangement was made and the Italian Government were informed of it, they would waive the conditions for which they had stipulated with Turkey as necessary to their evacuation of the islands.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[22655] No. 20.

Foreign Office to London Chamber of Commerce.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 2, 1913.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th ultimo, regarding the tobacco trade in Macedonia.

I am to state, in reply, that the matter is now under consideration, and a further communication will be addressed to you in due course on the subject.

In the meantime, no useful purpose would, in Sir E. Grey's opinion, be served by the reception of a deputation such as you propose.

I am, &c.
LOUIS MALLET.

[26930] No. 21.

Conférence de Saint-James.

PROTOCOLE No. 12.

Séance du 20 mai (2 juin) 1913.

Étaient présents :

Pour la Bulgarie :

M. Madjarov ;

Pour la Grèce :

MM. Skouloudis, Gennadius et Streit ;

Pour le Monténégro :

MM. Popovitch et le Comte de Voïnovitch ;

Pour la Serbie :

MM. Novakovitch, Nikolitch et Pavlovitch ;

Pour la Turquie :

Osman Nizamy Pacha, Batzaria Effendi et Ahmed Réchid Bey.

La séance est ouverte à 4 heures ½, sous la présidence d'Osman Nizamy Pacha.
Le protocole de la séance précédente, lu par le secrétaire, M. Norman, est adopté.

Le Président observe qu'après la signature du traité de paix il reste certaines questions à régler, telles que : échange des prisonniers de guerre, amnistie, évacuation, relations postales, &c., dont la conférence pourrait s'occuper utilement et faciliter ainsi la tâche des gouvernements. Il propose, par conséquent, comme meilleure procédure à suivre, que chaque délégation élabore sur les questions qui, selon elle, doivent être ainsi traitées un projet d'articles, qui en cas d'entente seront consignés dans un protocole annexe.

M. Skouloudis, avant d'entrer dans l'examen de ces questions, désire savoir si la délégation ottomane a reçu les instructions attendues au sujet du rétablissement des traités antérieurs à la guerre.

Le Président déclare avoir reçu des instructions de la Sublime Porte qui tiennent compte du refus de la délégation hellénique de signer le protocole annexe conclu avec la Bulgarie concernant la mise en vigueur immédiate du traité de paix. Il croit pouvoir comprendre de ces instructions que son gouvernement ne pense pas, pour le moment, abroger les traités et conventions qui existaient avant la guerre actuelle, cette intention étant liée, bien entendu, à la reprise des relations normales et amicales entre les deux États et à l'aplanissement, par la solution des questions pendantes, des difficultés empêchant le rétablissement de ces relations.

MM. Skouloudis, Gennadius et *Streit* observent que la délégation ottomane a rattaché la déclaration demandée au règlement des questions pendantes et disent qu'ils ne peuvent entrer dans aucune négociation tant qu'ils n'auront pas une déclaration nette et explicite au sujet du rétablissement des traités antérieurs, qu'ils ont considéré indispensable pour la signature même du traité. *M. Skouloudis* ajoute néanmoins qu'ils sont prêts à consentir à la mise en vigueur immédiate du traité de paix si la délégation ottomane leur fait nettement la déclaration demandée.

Après une discussion à ce sujet entre les délégués hellènes et Osman Nizamy Pacha, Batzaria Effendi et Ahmed Réchid Bey, il est convenu que les deux délégations tâcheront d'arriver directement à une entente au moyen de conversations privées.

M. Skouloudis demande au Président quelle est la nature du traité signé,—si on doit le considérer comme définitif ou préliminaire. A son avis, le traité, définitif quant au rétablissement de la paix, ne saurait être, dans son ensemble, considéré comme tel avant d'être complété par le règlement des questions signalées par son Excellence Osman Nizamy Pacha.

Le Président, ayant eu l'occasion de s'enquérir du sentiment qui prévaut à ce sujet auprès de Sir E. Grey et des ambassadeurs, pense qu'on ne devrait pas attribuer au traité un sens non définitif. Le traité est donc définitif en tant que signé avec le bloc des alliés, mais des traités définitifs avec chacun des alliés suivront, comprenant les questions pendantes qui les intéressent particulièrement.

M. Skouloudis désire savoir si cette manière de voir, qui est celle des Puissances, est aussi celle de la Turquie. La Porte accepte-t-elle de faire des traités définitifs avec chacun des alliés ?

Batzaria Effendi dit que le traité est définitif quant aux questions qu'il résout. Les questions financières feront l'objet de décisions de la commission de Paris et les autres questions pendantes celui d'un ou de plusieurs protocoles. Ainsi dans sa forme définitive le traité sera en quelque sorte composé de trois parties.

Le Comte de Voïnovitch prend la parole pour formuler quelques observations sur la nature du traité du 30 mai.

Il fait remarquer, d'abord, que la discussion n'est pas sortie du cadre d'une conversation, sans aucune sanction de la part de la conférence. Dans ces conditions on ne saurait rédiger le procès-verbal de la séance.

Il croit cependant nécessaire d'appeler l'attention de la haute assemblée sur la nécessité de préciser la nature de l'acte si important signé le 30 mai, surtout en présence des interprétations divergentes qui ont circulé en Europe et qui ont trouvé une répercussion même au sein de la conférence.

Il désire qu'il soit bien entendu et que la conférence fasse une énonciation de principe là-dessus :

1° Que le traité du 30 mai est un "traité de paix," et qu'on ne peut en aucune façon l'appeler "préliminaires de paix" ;

2° Qu'un protocole concernant le règlement entre les Hautes Parties contractantes de plusieurs questions qui découlent nécessairement du traité de paix formera, comme protocole annexe, partie intégrante de cet acte diplomatique ; et

3° Que des conventions spéciales seront ensuite conclues entre les différents États alliés et la Turquie en exécution de l'article 7 du traité de paix.

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Il renouvelle la proposition de se prononcer, d'une manière officielle et définitive, sur ces trois points.

M. Skouloudis répète qu'à son avis le traité ne pourra être complet, et par conséquent définitif, que lorsque les matières laissées ouvertes et qui sont généralement comprises dans tout traité de paix définitif seront réglées par des protocoles annexes, et il émet l'opinion que chacune des délégations devrait formuler ses propositions sur les questions pendantes en forme de protocoles destinés à faire partie intégrante du traité. Par un échange de ces propositions entre la délégation ottomane et les délégations des États alliés dans des séances non formelles on pourra arriver à une entente utile.

La conférence, tout en tenant compte de la réserve faite par les délégués hellènes concernant une déclaration préalable de la délégation ottomane, décide d'adopter la procédure suggérée au cours de la discussion par Osman Nizamy Pacha et M. Skouloudis, et désigne un comité composé de MM. Madjarov, Streit, le Comte de Voïnvoitch, Pavlovitch et Ahmed Réchid Bey, qui se réunira pour les travaux préparatoires.

Sur la demande de *M. Madjarov*, il est décidé que toute proposition émanant d'une délégation devra être faite par écrit et communiquée en temps utile aux autres délégations.

M. Novakovitch désire attirer l'attention de la conférence sur une question intéressant spécialement la Serbie et concernant les canons et le matériel de guerre confisqués par le gouvernement ottoman quelques jours avant la déclaration de guerre et dont la valeur dépasserait 4,000,000 de francs. D'après les renseignements parvenus au gouvernement serbe, la commission financière de Paris ne se considérerait pas compétente pour statuer sur cette question puisqu'elle date d'avant la guerre. La délégation serbe demande, en conséquence, si la haute assemblée désire s'en occuper elle-même, ou, à défaut, en saisir la commission financière de Paris.

Batzaria Effendi déclare qu'à son avis la conférence n'a pas qualité pour s'occuper d'une question concernant des faits qui ont précédé la guerre, et qu'elle n'est de même pas autorisée à renvoyer cette question à la commission de Paris. La question soulevée par la délégation serbe devrait être réglée directement entre les deux gouvernements intéressés.

Il est décidé de fixer ultérieurement la date de la prochaine réunion.
La séance est levée à 6 heures ¼.

Le Président :
OSMAN NIZAMY.

Les Secrétaires :
H. NORMAN.
S. TCHAPRACHIKOV.
H. RIZO-RANGABÉ.
S. Y. GROUITCH.
D. NORADOUNGHIAN.

[25689] No. 22.

The Marquis Imperiali to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 3.)

(Translation.)
Sir, *Italian Embassy, June 2, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Excellency, with particular satisfaction, the following telegram, directed to me by the Marquis di San Giuliano, His Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs :—

"The President of the Chamber, in pursuance of a vote by acclamation, has requested me to communicate to the British Government an expression of the lively

and deep sympathy with which the Italian Parliament has greeted the conclusion of peace and the work of the eminent statesman, Sir Edward Grey."

I have, &c.
IMPERIALI.

[25403] No. 23.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Belgrade, June 2, 1913.*

SERVIA and Bulgaria.

Prime Minister, who has just returned from frontier, states that differences were not discussed in detail between himself and Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs. They merely arrived at the conclusion reported in my immediately preceding telegram of to-day that Premiers of the four allied States should meet to discuss matters, probably at Salonica, as soon as possible. He hopes that this may produce a satisfactory result, but is by no means yet confident that it will be so.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[25398] No. 24.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 257.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 3, 1913.*

FRENCH Ambassador is leaving to-day for Paris, having, he states, been called there by his Government in connection with the financial interests to be dealt with by the International Commission.

[25413] No. 25.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Salonica, June 3, 1913.*

I AM informed that Servian-Greek understanding was signed yesterday. Greek Minister at Belgrade returned there yesterday afternoon.

[25442] No. 26.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 122.)
Sir, *Athens, May 27, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 93 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith a despatch from the military attaché to His Majesty's Legation on the military forces at present at the disposal of the Greeks and on the recent fighting with the Bulgarians.

The Prime Minister, whom I saw this morning, denied that Nigrita had been occupied by the Bulgarians, and said that, if it had been, the Greeks could not have left them there without trying to turn them out.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

Enclosure in No. 26.

Lieutenant-Colonel Cunliffe-Owen to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 19.)
Sir, *Athens, May 27, 1913.*

IN view of the strained relations now existing with Bulgaria, it may be useful to give a short summary of the military forces at present at the disposal of the Greeks. According to my estimate, these are made up thus :—

26

Macedonia—	
Eight field divisions, cavalry brigade, and army troops	115,000
L. of C. (territorial) troops	10,000
Epirus—	
Two field divisions and an independent brigade	50,000
Garrisons of territorial troops	5,000
Athens—	
Recruits under training	15,000
Trained men	5,000
Islands	5,000
Sick and convalescent	15,000
Total	200,000
Seamen available for employment on land	15,000

Other estimates put the total forces available at 225,000.

2. As a result of the recent fighting (which, commencing on the 22nd instant, followed upon that of the 10th, already reported) to the east of Salonica, various changes have necessarily ensued in the location of the divisions in Macedonia. The brunt of the encounters has been borne by the 7th and 1st divisions, which still find themselves in the Bunar Dagh (Greek, Pangeon) positions. The 4th division, it is believed, has been pushed forward in the Nigrita direction, followed by the 6th (last reported at Gradobor and Balja) or by the 2nd (last at Langaza), or by both of these divisions. The 3rd has been moved up from Jenidze to the railway at Gumendze, the 5th to Topsin or still farther east, while the 10th remains at Gevghelli. These moves are according to reports from various sources and can only be considered as approximate, especially as further changes probably occur at short intervals as the situation develops.

3. As regards the last combats, or rather battle, which took place, it is difficult to obtain as yet any very reliable information, but it appears that, advancing on the night of the 21st–22nd, the Bulgarian troops encountered the Greek outposts in the early morning of the 22nd. The advance took the direction of Vulchista and Kolchak (Greek, Cotzaki) by the bridges over the Angista River near those places. The Greek outposts were apparently surprised, and the 7th division was too dispersed to be able to make much head against the Bulgarian attack in force. The fighting proceeded until midday, when part of the Greek first division arrived in support from Tchai-Aghisi, and a position was maintained by Somaltos-Pravishta. The fighting was renewed on the following day, but on a smaller scale, and there appears to have been no further change in the situation in that locality. The Greek losses are given officially at 59 killed and 134 wounded. Unofficial statements give the casualties as 800.

Simultaneously with the above, another Bulgarian movement was made by Hirlamur (Greek, Flamouri), west of Nigrita. Here there was only one battalion of the Greek 1st division, which retired in face of superior numbers, the result being that Nigrita was occupied by the Bulgarians, and their troops penetrated as far as Suho (Suchos).

To meet this movement the 4th division was, as stated above, pushed forward, supported by at least one other division, but at the time of writing it is not known what, if any, have been the further developments around Nigrita.

I have, &c.
F. CUNLIFFE OWEN,
Military Attaché.

[25443] No. 27.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 123. Confidential.)

Athens, May 27, 1913.

Sir,

YOUR telegram No. 78 of the 24th instant, arguing against the insistance of the Greek Government in demanding alterations in the draft treaty of peace proposed by the Powers, reached me on the 25th in the morning, and I immediately sent a French version of it to M. Coromilas. His Excellency came to see me soon afterwards, and said he did not wish to contest the right of the Powers to take what decisions they please or to enforce them how they please, but that it would not be honest on the part of Greece to sign the treaty with a reservation. Moreover, if she did so, her signature

might some day be brought up against her while her reservation was ignored. I said I did not see the dishonesty nor the danger, since Greece was invited to make her reservation. M. Coromilas, however, persisted in his objections, and added that all the allies had come to see that the Greek view was correct, and were unanimous in supporting it.

It struck me that perhaps what M. Coromilas really objected to was giving the Powers a blank cheque, which, when it came to be presented, might be found to have been filled in with sacrifices in the matter of Epirus and the islands, such as to render the Greek Government bankrupt in public estimation, and to bring about their downfall and possibly that of the dynasty. The papers have recently been full of accounts of the enthusiasm displayed by the populations on the occasion of the visit of the Crown Prince to the outskirts of the occupied districts, and notably to places the retention of which by Greece is objected to by Italy. Although, therefore, quite prepared to bow to the will of Europe when it becomes known, he is unwilling, for internal reasons, to announce his readiness to do so beforehand.

In reply to my telegram to the above effect, I had the honour this morning to receive your telegram No. 79 of yesterday, insisting on the necessity of the immediate signature of peace. Not feeling certain that M. Coromilas, whose ideas are, to say the least, less pacific than those of M. Venizelos, was keeping his chief informed of your views, I went to see the latter, taking with me translations of your telegrams, which I showed him. As I suspected, he had not seen the first one, and he expressed the deepest regret that an incomprehensible misunderstanding as to the attitude of the Greek Government should have exposed them to such peremptory language on your part. He telephoned for M. Coromilas to come and join us, and in the meantime he said that instructions should be sent to the Greek delegates to defer unreservedly to your views as to the inexpediency of requiring alterations in articles 3 and 5 of the draft treaty, relative to the assignment by the allied Sovereigns as well as by the Sultan of the decision as to Albania and the islands. Upon the further point of the modification of article 7 he said that, although the Greek Government attached the greatest importance to the insertion in the treaty of stipulations providing against delay in the conclusion of the supplementary conventions, and also to the admission of their delegates to the Paris Commission with a deliberative and not merely consultative voice, he was prepared to instruct the Greek representatives in London to give way if, after laying fully before you the arguments of the Greek Government, they found you still of opinion that they were not convincing.

When M. Coromilas arrived he repeated the arguments he had used to me, that it would not be honest to make reservations while signing the treaty. M. Venizelos swept them away by saying that the proceeding was perfectly fair and above-board, seeing that Greece was invited to adopt it. M. Coromilas then said somewhat inconsequently that the Greek plenipotentiaries had already received all necessary instructions. M. Venizelos replied that they must be repeated in such a manner that there could be no possible mistake about them. There had already been a regrettable misunderstanding as to the attitude of the Greek Government. Their policy was, and always had been ("You ought not to be listening to this," he interjected to me), to conform absolutely to the advice of Sir Edward Grey. The misunderstanding had led to the use on his part of language which it was painful for them to listen to, although behind they can perceive the goodwill which animated him towards Greece.

There followed some conversation upon the questions of article 7 and of the International Commission. Eventually the Ministers, believing that your telegrams referred particularly to the questions of Albania and the islands, decided not to give their delegates positive instructions upon the other points for the present beyond desiring them to submit to you fully the arguments of the Greek Government, with which they said that the other allied Governments were in complete agreement.

Later in the day M. Coromilas came to tell me that he had received a telegram from London showing that good progress had been made towards the signature of the treaty, as the delegates had met you and had been told by you that all their reservations could be inserted in the protocols.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

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[25444] No. 28.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 124. Confidential.)

Sir, *Athens, May 27, 1913.*

IT has long been more than suspected that the relations between M. Venizelos and his Minister for Foreign Affairs were far from cordial. He is known to have been very much dissatisfied at the way things were managed while he was away in London, when M. Coromilas acted as president of the Council and M. Stratos as Minister of War as well as of Marine, and it has been long rumoured that he would have dispensed with the services of both had it not been for the objections to provoking a Cabinet crisis during a war.

On the other hand M. Coromilas is credited with the desire to supplant M. Venizelos, though on what, except his own overweening vanity and self-confidence, he bases any hope of success, I do not know, since he is personally unpopular and has no following in the Chamber.

The attitude of both men during the interview between them, at which I assisted to-day, reflected clearly enough the want of sympathy between them. M. Venizelos did not hide his annoyance at not having been informed of your message, and at your having been allowed to fall into a misapprehension of his policy and intentions. M. Coromilas was obviously not pleased at being summoned to receive a lecture in the presence of a foreign representative for whom he himself was the proper channel of communication with the Greek Government. Their manner towards each other, under a show of formality, betrayed the irritation felt on both sides.

M. Venizelos leaves to-night for Salonica to confer with the King.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

[25445] No. 29.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 125.)

Sir, *Athens, May 28, 1913.*

MR. BUTLER, the correspondent of the "Daily Mail," was allowed to accompany the Crown Prince on the tour, an account of which is given in my despatch No. 121 of the 26th instant, and was particularly asked by His Royal Highness to enquire among Mussulmans and non-Greeks whether they had any complaints to make, as he thought they might open their minds more freely to a foreigner than to a Greek.

Mr. Butler states that no complaints were made to him anywhere; the Mussulmans said they were agreeably surprised at not being massacred. Real enthusiasm was displayed everywhere, the population being much more demonstrative than at Athens. Greek was spoken everywhere. Vlachs were not conspicuous, but so far as Mr. Butler could judge they were pro-Greek.

Korytsa was decidedly Greek in sentiment, as was proved by the fact that the troops were being gradually withdrawn and sent eastwards, only about 750 men remaining in the districts. The local Beys were more favourable to Albanian domination as promising a better prospect of the retention of their hold over the people.

The town of Argyrocastro contained about 9,000 Mussulman inhabitants and 3,000 Greeks. The villages in the districts were exclusively Greek, containing churches but no mosques. The garrison of Argyrocastro numbered about 1,200.

Local volunteers are being formed everywhere, and Mr. Butler formed the opinion that these men will fight if they are not included within the Greek frontier.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

[25446] No. 30.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 126.)

Sir, *Athens, May 29, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 117 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note which I have received from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs in reply to my representations on the subject of the restitution of Ottoman fiscal stamps seized by the Greek authorities at Salonica.

M. Coromilas maintains that the seizure was effected in accordance with recognised belligerent rights; that the stamps had a commercial value of their own, of which the Greek Government were justified in depriving the enemy Government; and that the Greek Government could utilise them, with or without a surcharge, in the collection of taxes on its own account in the occupied territories.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

Enclosure in No. 30.

M. Coromilas to Sir F. Elliot.

M. le Ministre, *Athènes, le 12 (25) mai, 1913.*

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la lettre que votre Excellence a bien voulu me faire parvenir en date du 10 (23) mai courant, au sujet de la saisie de timbres et papiers fiscaux opérée par les autorités grecques dans les agences de la Banque ottomane sur les territoires occupés par les troupes grecques.

Il résulte d'un rapport que le représentant du Gouvernement à Salonique a fait parvenir au Département des Finances sur la question qui nous occupe, que, en effet à la date du 26 février dernier les autorités grecques ont pris livraison de cinq caisses de timbres turcs, qui se trouvaient en dépôt dans la succursale de la Banque à Salonique au nom de la Direction générale des Postes et Télégraphes. Mais en procédant à la saisie des timbres les autorités grecques n'ont fait que se conformer aux règles et usages généralement admis et consacrés par l'article 53 du Règlement de La Haye, aux termes duquel l'occupant a le droit de saisir les fonds et les valeurs appartenant en propre à l'État. Il importe de faire observer que les timbres, en dehors de leur affectation officielle, ont une valeur propre commerciale, le commerce s'en faisant sur une très grande échelle; il n'est donc pas exact de dire, ainsi que le prétend le Gouvernement ottoman, que le seul usage qui en puisse être fait est leur utilisation dans les autres parties de l'Empire ottoman. On peut rapprocher du texte du Règlement de La Haye celui de l'article 50 du Manuel d'Oxford: "L'occupant ne peut saisir que . . . . les fonds et les valeurs exigibles et négociables. . . . ." Or, les timbres constituant des valeurs négociables, l'occupant a tout intérêt de ne pas en laisser le profit à son adversaire.

Il en est de même de l'argument de la Sublime Porte, qui consiste à dire qu'étant destinées à la perception d'impôts et taxes, ces valeurs ne peuvent être utilisées dans les pays occupés. L'occupant ayant le droit de prélever dans le territoire occupé les impôts et droits établis au profit de l'État, il en résulte, par voie de conséquence, qu'il peut prendre possession et utiliser les papiers et timbres dont se servait l'État ennemi et, en l'espèce, mettre en circulation, pour son propre compte, telles qu'elles sont ou bien avec une surcharge, les valeurs qu'il a pu saisir.

En réponse à la communication que votre Excellence a bien voulu me faire au nom de son Gouvernement, je lui serai reconnaissant de vouloir bien porter à sa connaissance les considérations qui précèdent, et j'aime à espérer que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté britannique se ralliera à cette manière de voir du Gouvernement Royal.

Veuillez, &c.
L. A. COROMILAS.

[25439] No. 31.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 487.)

Sir, *Constantinople, May 31, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 437 of the 19th instant, and to previous correspondence regarding Greco-Bulgarian relations, I have the honour to enclose

herein copies of a despatch from His Majesty's consul-general at Salonica, reporting the commencement of serious fighting between the Greeks and Bulgarians in the region of Mount Pangheion.

I also enclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's vice-consul at Cavalla, dealing with the same subject, and in particular with the losses incurred by foreign merchants as a result of the present situation.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure 1 in No. 31.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 47.)

Salonica, May 24, 1913.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 42 and 43 of the 10th and 12th instant respectively, relative to the fighting between Greek and Bulgarian troops in the region of Mount Pangheion, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the cessation of hostilities reported in the latter was only of short duration.

It appears to have been agreed between the two parties that the places in and around which this fighting had occurred should be evacuated by both, so as to leave a species of neutral zone between the outposts on either side. On Wednesday the 21st, however, a considerable force of Bulgars is said to have crossed this zone and approached the Greek positions in the neighbourhood of Vultchista, on the northern slopes of the mountain. The Greeks opposed this movement, but, on the matter being reported to headquarters, orders were telegraphed to Colonel Manousseyannakis, who was in chief command, to remain strictly on the defensive, and not even to return the Bulgarians' fire unless absolutely compelled. The attack, however, was resolutely pushed home, and the Greeks, being outnumbered, found themselves compelled to fall back in succession from Vultchista, Radolivos, and Pirvishta, finally taking up a strong defensive position at Lakovikia, stretching from the crest of the hill down to the shores of Tahinos Lake.

In consequence, it is supposed, of instructions issued from Sophia in reply to the remonstrances of the Hellenic Government, the Bulgarian advance was checked on the evening of the 22nd, but it began again yesterday afternoon, when the Bulgars were reported to be attempting to work round the Greek right. They are said to have brought into action an entire brigade (10,000 to 15,000 men), the brunt of whose attack was borne by the 7th Greek division, under Colonel Sautilis. The losses are believed to have been serious on both sides, though little definite is yet known here. The Greeks, however, admit over 300 casualties, the colonel commanding the 19th regiment and two other officers being reported wounded, and at least one officer killed.

The King of Greece arrived in Salonica about 10 o'clock last night on the destroyer "Panthère." His Majesty's original intention on leaving Athens is said to have been to proceed first to Tchai-Ackzi, but his plans were modified *en route* and he came here direct, the "Panthère" effecting the crossing from Chalchis in ten hours.

Disturbances had been predicted in Salonica itself for to-day, being the festival of SS. Cyril and Methodius, as a result of demonstrations organised by the Bulgars, but these were prohibited by the police, and the Bulgarians were induced, partly I am told as a result of the intervention of the Russian consulate, to respect the prohibition.

Two Bulgarian soldiers were last night arrested by a patrol whilst in the act of cutting the telephone wires connecting the 4th division with headquarters.

I have, &c.
HARRY H. LAMB.

Enclosure 2 in No. 31.

Acting Vice-Consul Morgan to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 22. Confidential.)

Cavalla, May 22, 1913.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 20/30 of the 12th May last, I have the honour to report that the villages on the north slopes of Mount Pangheion, such as Paleohor,

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Nikisjan, Kurumishta, Anghista, and Radolivos, &c., are still in the hands of the Greeks. The Bulgarians are in occupation of Pravishta and the country north of it as far as Dranitch. East and south of Pravishta the Greeks still retain Samakov, Mustenya, and Port Leftera. It is certain that the Bulgarian attempt to drive the Greeks out of Leftera failed, and, in general, in the conflicts in the Pravishta districts neither side can claim any decisive advantage. Despite the temporary patching up of the quarrel, affairs still remain critical.

The Cavalla–Drama road has again been closed to civilians to-day.

I have no need to say that the interests of foreign merchants are suffering greatly as a result of the policy of isolating Cavalla, especially at this time, when last year's crop of tobacco is ordinarily brought in from the villages to Cavalla for "manipulation." "Manipulation" of tobacco cannot be carried out in the villages, and failure to "manipulate" may result in the rotting of the tobacco and the loss of thousands of pounds to the merchant.

Rightly or wrongly, merchants are of opinion that the severe measures in force here, such as the closing of the port, the censorship of letters, and restrictions on travel, are not so much dictated by military necessity as decree on the initiative of the local authorities, actuated by irritation against the native population for its strong Greek sympathies.

Bulgarian troops continue to pour into the Drama–Serres district, and fighting between the allies seems almost inevitable.

I have, &c.
JAMES MORGAN.

[25440]

No. 32.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 4.)

(No. 488.)

Constantinople, May 31, 1913.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 251 of the 29th May, I have the honour to report that, owing to the recent destruction of two steamers by mines in the approaches to Smyrna, the French steamer by which the ex-Grand Vizier, Kiamil Pasha, was travelling to Smyrna, where he had decided to reside, did not call there, with the result that Kiamil Pasha was obliged to come to Constantinople pending the reopening of Smyrna to navigation.

On his arrival at his son's house he was called upon by officers and police agents, who informed him on behalf of Colonel Djemal Bey, the Military Governor of the capital, that he must at once leave Constantinople and proceed to Europe. Kiamil Pasha expostulated, asked for reasons for such treatment, saying that his intention was to take the first steamer calling at Smyrna, and sent his son to the Grand Vizier to request that he should not be exposed to such illegal methods. Mahmoud Shevket Pasha professed ignorance of the incident and promised to enquire into the matter.

In the meantime the house where Kiamil Pasha was staying was surrounded by some 40 police agents and spies, who prevented all communication with the outside world. Two officers again called, explaining that Colonel Djemal Bey did not recognise the authority of the Grand Vizier (who is a Field Marshal), and that Kiamil Pasha must at once leave the capital by a French steamer, leaving the same day, for Marseilles. The ex-Grand Vizier, after further negotiations with Mahmoud Shevket Pasha, the head of the police, &c., was allowed to stay till to-morrow, when the first direct steamer leaves for Smyrna.

My French colleague and I sent our first dragomans to convey our compliments to Kiamil Pasha, but they were refused admittance by the police agents, who stated that their orders "included even the representatives of foreign Ambassadors." On this being brought to the notice of the Grand Vizier the latter expressed regrets, communicated with Colonel Djemal Bey, and the dragomans were allowed to see Kiamil Pasha. His Highness wished to call on the French Ambassador and myself, but was prevented from doing so.

This severe and unjustifiable treatment of the ex-Grand Vizier has naturally produced a very painful impression on the Turkish population, with whom he is so popular, and is strongly condemned as a glaring instance of the suppression of

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constitutional and personal liberties by the Committee of Union and Progress now in power.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

[25424] No. 33.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 4.)

(No. 286.)
Paris, June 1, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of the leading article in the "Temps" of to-night on the subject of the forthcoming Financial Commission, which will meet for the first time on the 4th instant.* The article begins by commenting on a document issued by the French Government to the various delegates, containing the text of the programme of the work of the Commission adopted by the Powers, certain conclusions and articles drawn up by a French Inter-Departmental Commission, and a series of tables of figures intended to facilitate the work of the Commission. In certain circles, the article states, this document is regarded as partial, unfavourable to the Balkan States, and displeasing to Russia, but that, as many of the opinions and conclusions contained in it have in the meantime been modified, too much importance should not be attached to it, as it possesses none itself.

The "Temps" goes on to say that this incident has the advantage of justifying certain remarks as to the rôle which the French delegates should play in regard to Russia. The Commission is technical, and will be presided over by a Frenchman who will, of course, be impartial; nevertheless, politics must not be overlooked, and Russia, as she legitimately may do, will plead the cause of the Balkan States in Paris. Russia has the right to count absolutely on help from France, just as France depended on Russia's help at Algeciras. The delegates of the two countries must keep in close touch with each other. France has on her side the rights of the French holders of Turkish bonds to protect, a fact which Russia has no intention of overlooking. There must be no question of risking the *entente* between the two Powers, and M. Pichon has given to M. Isvolsky assurances on that point. Such assurances may be superfluous, but they are opportune, and will remove the uneasiness occasioned by the issue of the document in question.

This article seems to be addressed to the French delegates as a warning in regard to their future attitude towards questions on which the Russians and Germans differ most acutely. The close intimacy and many meetings between the French and German delegates have occasioned the Russians much uneasiness, and the Russian councillor has more than once spoken on the subject to Mr. Carnegie.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

P.S.—Copies of the document referred to by the "Temps" will be transmitted to you by the British delegates in a separate despatch.

L. D. C.

[25425] No. 34.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 4.)

(No. 287.)
Paris, June 2, 1913.

Sir,

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a despatch from the British delegates on the Balkan Financial Commission reporting on the issue of a volume of "Preliminary Documents" in regard to the discussions of the commission, and on the objection felt by the German delegate to the procedure of the French Government.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE.

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* Not printed.

Enclosure in No. 34.

British Delegates on Balkan Financial Commission to Sir Edward Grey.

(No. 8.)
Paris, June 2, 1913.

Sir,

WE have the honour to refer to Sir Francis Bertie's despatch No. 286 of the 1st instant, forwarding copy of a leading article which appeared in the "Temps" of the 1st instant, with regard to the forthcoming Financial Commission, and to transmit two copies of the printed "Preliminary Documents" referred to in the article in question.*

It will be observed that the first twelve tables comprised in the print contain merely statistical information as to the various Turkish loans and advances, and the revenues on which they are guaranteed. Tables XIII and XIV, however, contain calculations involving a number of debatable points, of the share of the Turkish debt which the Balkan States would be required to take over on the basis of the formula of the "Spécialisation des Gages."

The criticisms to which these calculations, based on documents presented by the German delegation, are open, were brought out in the informal discussions which took place some weeks ago between the French and German technical delegates, Sir Richard Crawford and Sir Paul Harvey, and it was not foreseen that they would be printed and distributed by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs without a clearer indication than is given in the preface that they purport to represent merely an *ex parte* statement of the case, in which no general concurrence had been expressed.

At an informal meeting which took place at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs between the French and German delegations and ourselves on Saturday, before the article in the "Temps" appeared, and before we knew that these documents had been communicated to the delegates of any other Powers, we pointed out the necessity of giving them a less equivocal form before they were distributed.

The principal German delegate expressed to Mr. Carnegie this morning great indignation at the article in the "Temps," which, he said, had evidently been dictated by the Russian Ambassador to M. Tardieu. He considered that the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs was also most blameworthy, for it was evident from the words "renseignements pris," in the first paragraph, that M. Tardieu had consulted the officials of the Ministry in regard to his article. M. de Lancken stated that he meant to speak very plainly at the Ministry, and to say that if the French Government intended to "faire la politique" in this way, the German delegates would withdraw from Paris, and his Government would propose that the negotiations be carried on in London.

We have, &c.
H. P. HARVEY.
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

[25427] No. 35.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 4.)

(No. 289.)
Paris, June 1, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith Sir Paul Harvey's despatch indicating the points on which the views of the German delegates at the Financial Conference on Balkan Affairs might differ from those of their colleagues, and on which they would probably desire British support.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

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* Not printed.

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Enclosure in No. 35.

British Delegates to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June 4.*)

(No. 7.)

Paris, June 1, 1913.

Sir,

IN view of the suggestion of the German Government that there should be co-operation between the British and the German delegates at the Financial Conference on Balkan Affairs with a view to securing adequate guarantees for the construction of the Bagdad Railway, it may be convenient that we should indicate the points, so far as revealed by the preliminary discussions, on which the views of the German delegates might differ from those of their colleagues, and on which they would probably desire British support.

2. The first has reference to the 3 per cent. customs surtax conceded by the Powers to Turkey in 1907 for seven years, for the purpose of supplementing the revenues of the Macedonian provinces, subject to the right of the Council of the Ottoman Debt to appropriate 25 per cent. of any such increase of customs to the special sinking fund of the Turkish Unified Loan and Lottery Bonds. The German delegates appear disposed to argue that the renewal of this surtax for an indefinite period is to be assumed, and that consequently the Balkan States should be asked to take over a share of the Turkish debt proportioned to the amount of revenue drawn from this source in the European provinces of Turkey and applied to the service of the debt.

3. This question of the 3 per cent. surtax is somewhat involved, and to enable its bearing on the Bagdad Railway finance to be understood the following explanation is necessary:

4. The Decree of Moharrem of 1881 ceded to the service of certain Turkish loans (since consolidated into the Turkish Unified Debt and Lottery Bonds) various revenues, and, among others, the whole produce of any increase in the customs duties of the Empire beyond the rate then prevailing, which, in the case of the import duties, was 8 per cent. The decree issued in 1903 as an annex to the Decree of Moharrem, assigned 25 per cent. of any excess of these ceded revenues beyond the fixed annuity of £T. 2,157,375 required for the ordinary service of the Unified Debt and Lottery Bonds to the special sinking fund of these same Unified Debt and Lottery Bonds, and prescribed that the remaining 75 per cent. should be returned to the Turkish Government as free revenue.

5. The Turkish Government has subsequently assigned this 75 per cent. of the surplus of the ceded revenues as the guarantee of the following loans:—

(1.) The 4 per cent. loan of 1904.
(2.) The 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th series of the Bagdad Railway Loan.

There is, however, this difference between the above assignments, that whereas in the case of the loan of 1904 the 75 per cent. of the surplus of the ceded revenues is given as a guarantee without restriction, in the case of the Bagdad Loans the yield of the 3 per cent. customs surtax is specifically excluded from the guarantee.

6. It would appear, therefore, as if the German Government, so far as the Bagdad Railway is concerned, are not interested in the maintenance of the 3 per cent. surtax. The interest which the German delegation are in fact showing in the fate of the surtax can, however, be explained as follows:—In the first place, it is understood that Germany has recently indicated that she considers her renunciation of the 3 per cent. surtax in connection with the Bagdad Railway guarantees as only provisional, and liable to be modified.

7. The German delegation have, moreover, shown a disposition to stipulate in the forthcoming arrangements that, in view of the changed situation resulting from the cession of Turkish territories, it should be open to Turkey's creditors to ask for additional guarantees where circumstances justify it. The Bagdad Railway might be a case in point, and the additional guarantees would probably be sought in an assignment of the 3 per cent. surtax if this were renewed on its expiry in 1914.

8. Moreover, the charge on the surplus of the ceded revenues in favour of the 1904 loan is prior to that in favour of the 2nd and subsequent series of the Bagdad bonds. As has been said above, the charge in the former case is on the surplus, including the yield of the 3 per cent. surtax. The non-renewal of this surtax would consequently have the effect of throwing on the revenues on which the Bagdad loans are guaranteed a portion of the charge for the 1904 loan, which might otherwise be borne by the yield of the 3 per cent. surtax, thus diminishing the sum available for the Bagdad Loans.

9. The interest of the German Government in the maintenance of the 3 per cent. surtax, though indirect, thus becomes apparent. When confronted with the arguments against the assumption that the surtax will be renewed, and that the bondholders have a right to reckon on such renewal, the German delegates take up the following position:—The Decree of Moharrem, they say, ceded to the bondholders all increase of customs revenue beyond that produced by the rates then existing. If the Balkan States should, as is probable, introduce their own customs tariffs in the newly-acquired territories, they would, on the theory of the permanence of such special guarantees, be under the obligation of paying over to the bondholders the produce of any excess which those tariffs might represent beyond the 8 per cent. import duty in force in Turkey in 1881. While the German delegates recognise that the application of such a principle might in practice be difficult to enforce, they maintain that the bondholders are in a position, by reason of their rights in this respect, to claim from the Balkan States some suitable compromise.

10. There remain certain difficulties of detail connected with the precise situation of the 3rd and of the 4th, 5th, and 6th series of the Bagdad Loans and the kilometric guarantees of the Bagdad Railway, in regard to which the German delegates might be glad of British support. The bonds of the 3rd series have been handed over to the Bagdad Railway Company in accordance with article 35 of the Convention of the 5th March, 1903, in anticipation of the construction of the corresponding section of the line, and the Ottoman Government is now defraying the service of those bonds. But the bonds have not been issued to the public. It is a question therefore whether there can be said to be any bondholders, and whether the debt is regularly constituted in a sense which would justify a claim on the Balkan States to take over a share of it proportionate to the amount of the ceded revenues employed in its service and drawn from the European provinces of Turkey. The German contention is that the debt is fully constituted, and that a portion of it should be taken over by the Balkan States. It should be noticed, however, that although the Turkish Government is defraying the service of this series of bonds, yet, by the same article 35, the concessionnaire is bound to reimburse to the Ottoman Government, on the provisional reception of the section in question of the line, the sums paid by the latter in respect of the service of the loan during the period of construction.

11. The 4th, 5th, and 6th series are in an even more doubtful position. The bonds have not been created at all, but their issue at a future date has been decided by the Bagdad Railway Convention of 1911, and their service has been guaranteed on the same surplus of the ceded revenues as in the case of the 2nd and 3rd series. The German contention is that the future service of these bonds, as well as of the kilometric guarantees, constitutes a lien on the surplus of the ceded revenues, and will more than absorb the whole of such surplus. The Russian and Bulgarian contention that there is a free surplus on the ceded revenues at the disposal of the Ottoman Government would, on this view of the matter, have no foundation, and the Balkan States would become liable to contribute their share of the ceded revenues without any deduction in respect of such free surplus.

12. We need hardly point out that the German contention is particularly weak as regards the claim in respect of the kilometric guarantees. The charges in respect of these are in their very nature variable, and should tend to diminish and eventually vanish with the development of traffic on the line. Yet the effect of the German contention would be to impose on the Balkan States, assuming that this share is capitalised, a charge in respect of them for the whole period of the concession, namely, ninety-nine years. Seeing that the Balkan States have no interest whatever in the line, the difficulty of making them accept any such burden is evident.

We have, &c.

H. P. HARVEY.
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

Minutes.

Under article 35 of the Bagdad Railway Convention the Turkish Government undertake to issue to the concessionnaires the amount of bonds accrued to them, "on the signature of each special convention for each section." The contract for the 2nd and 3rd series was signed in 1908, and provided for the creation of a loan of 4,760,000*l.* two series, of which the 3rd consisted of bonds to the amount of (article 1), and under article 9 the Turkish Government assigned and appropriated exclusively "to the Imperial Ottoman Bagdad Railway Company, for the account of

Cd. 5636. p. 45.
Cd. 5635, p. 65.
Cd. 5635, p. 67.

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the bondholders of the loan," on the surplus of the net receipts of the Ottoman Public Debt accruing to the Turkish Government under article 7 of the supplementary decree annexed to the Decree of Moharrem, a fixed sum of 220,000*l.* for the 3rd series to ensure the regular payment of the interest and sinking fund. The bonds of this series have been handed over to the company, and though they have not been issued to the public it seems to me to be difficult to say in these circumstances the debt has not been regularly constituted and the revenues assigned to its service, especially as the Turkish Government is now defraying the service of these bonds, and to this extent I think the German contention is right.

As regards the 4th, 5th, and 6th series, it appears that a convention was signed in 1911 providing for the construction of the line as far as Bagdad, giving the company the right to call on the Government to issue these three series of bonds, and assigning as security the same revenues as those dealt with in the contract of 1908 (11080/11, enclosure, clauses 1, 2, 4, 5). The company has not exercised its right, and the bonds have consequently not been issued. I am not aware to what extent the company has proceeded with the construction of the line as provided in this convention.

In these circumstances the question how far the ceded revenues must be taken as having been assigned to the service of these series seems to me to be a very difficult one. I should be inclined to say that, as the company had not exercised their right of calling on the Government to issue these bonds, and the bonds had not come into existence, before the occurrence of the events which have resulted in these revenues being to a large extent lost to Turkey, it seems unreasonable to hold that these revenues must be considered as actually charged with the service of these bonds; but there is a good deal to be said on the other side.

From a moral or equitable point of view the cases of the company and the Balkan States seem about equally strong.

H. W. M.

Foreign Office, June 20, 1913.

See 3rd para. of art. 35.

Article 35 of the Convention of the 5th March, 1903, does not, in my opinion, *of itself constitute any debt or charge*. To effect that result there must be a special convention for each fresh section of the railway line (other than the first section from Konia) and either therein or concurrently therewith a contract for the creation of this loan to secure the kilometric guarantee on the section, specifying the appropriations on which the loan is to be secured.

Till this has been done, and the loan issued, there can be, I think, no charge on any specific revenues.

In regard to the 3rd series of Bagdad Railway Bonds the additional convention and contract for the loan and for the charge thereof on the surplus of the net receipts of the Ottoman Public Debt accruing to the Ottoman Government under article 7 of the supplementary decree of the 28th Moharrem 1299 were both signed in 1908. The bonds have been created and handed, in accordance therewith, to the company, but have not yet been issued to the public.

By article 3 of the loan contract the bonds, when delivered to the company, are to be accepted by them in payment of the kilometric subsidy for the particular section of the line.

Whether the company has or has not taken this further step of issuing the bonds to the public does not appear to me to affect the question whether or not the debt has been regularly constituted and the revenues assigned to its service.

I think this result followed as soon as the bonds of this service were handed to the company. As a matter of law, I do not see why the company need ever have issued the bonds to the public. They might have chosen to retain them, thus remaining the sole bondholders of the series, or they might have issued the whole privately to some great financial house or corporation.

As to the bonds of the 4th, 5th, and 6th series, it is a very difficult question what is the precise effect of the 1911 Convention (for the text of which we have only a newspaper report).*

One cannot approach the construction of a document of this nature in the way in which one would that of an ordinary English contract.

It may no doubt be argued that it does create a present charge on the surplus of the ceded revenues for the purpose of securing all such bonds of the three series as may be issued from time to time pursuant thereto. This, I assume, is what the Germans mean by talking of a "lien," an expression which to an English lawyer would probably seem not exactly appropriate in the present connection.

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But if one looks at the language of article 5 of the Convention of 1911, which is the one provision which could be relied on as creating a charge, it is to be observed that it speaks throughout in terms of futurity—"seront soumis"—"seront affectés"—and on the whole I think that it only creates a personal contract on the part of the Ottoman Government to deliver the bonds to the company on demand (which has not been made) and a contract to create a charge in the future, or at the most a charge of a contingent character which only becomes absolute as and when bonds are issued (which has not been done). In this connection it is, I think, material to compare the language of the charging articles in the two loan contracts of 1908, when the phrase is in each case (article 9) "the Imperial Ottoman Government assign and appropriate irrevocably and inalienally" and "assign and appropriate exclusively and irrevocably," words apt for the creation of a present charge. See art. 4.

For these reasons, though sharing his hesitation, I think the view taken by Mr. Malkin of the effect of the 1911, is right. Until, at least, the issue of some bonds to the company, I think the matter remained *in fieri*.

As between the company and the allies the equities are about equal: and I am therefore disposed to say that the scale should be turned by the legal consideration that no charge has as yet been formally and effectually created.

F. W. P.

Foreign Office, June 21, 1913.

W. E. D.

Foreign Office, June 21, 1913.

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* It is surely desirable that we should obtain some more authoritative (I will not use the word authentic) text of this document.—W. E. D.

Mr. Parker,

Please look at this and let me have your observations.

L. M.

I have discussed this despatch with Mr. Pember and Mr. Malkin, and I also had some discussion on the issues raised with M. Raffalovich when he was in London on the 21st June.

My view is that the financial settlement in the Near East will not be determined so much in accordance with precedents of international law, as in pursuance of what is expedient. The legal precedents are, I understand, conflicting; and I think a good many arguments, with regard to the assumption of a portion of debt by the Power annexing territory, can be advanced both for and against. After the Napoleonic wars, I believe the settlement was, as regards allocation of debt and financial charges, determined much more by ability to support such charges than by legal precedent, and the present position seems to approximate, *mutatis mutandis*, to that which had to be faced as regards finance at the Congress of Vienna.

Before discussing the specific points raised in this despatch, it is convenient to recall one or two considerations which are likely to become governing factors in the present situation.

1. None of the Powers enjoying rights under the Capitulations—which rights include that of vetoing an increase of customs on their respective imports—has yet recognised the territorial arrangements resulting from the war. Austria-Hungary has explicitly stated that she will make such reservations as may be necessary to protect her economic interests when she finally consents to the territorial adjustment which the Balkan States may agree upon among themselves.

If the Balkan States do not recognise German and Austrian economic claims those two Powers have a simple remedy: they will refuse to allow customs duties in excess of 8 per cent. *ad valorem* to be imposed on Austrian and German imports at Salonica and other ports in the ceded territory. If Germany and Austria take up this attitude it seems clear that it will be impossible to impose heavier duties than 8 per cent. on the imports from any other country, and the result will be a great loss of revenue to the Balkan States concerned.

It is clear that Germany is going to make great efforts to secure adequate guarantees for the Bagdad Railway, and I think she will press the point of view, which I observe that Mr. Pember considers untenable, that the Convention of 1903 did in fact constitute a charge upon the Turkish Government to furnish revenues as security for the kilometric guarantees. Whatever may be the final legal ruling on this point,

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Germany will contend that it is a *Machtfrage* and that she possesses a lever as against the Balkan States which she will not hesitate to apply if those States are unaccommodating.

2. French and German financiers are both largely interested in the Bagdad Railway finance, and if the Balkan States prove intractable as regards Turkey and her obligations, it seems likely that the financiers will withhold supplies from those States.

I feel pretty sure from the language of M. Raffalovich that the Russian attitude in this question is not determined entirely by the equities of the case. (i.) Russia wants by indirect methods to do something, viz., impede the progress of the Bagdad Railway, which, by article 3 of the Potsdam agreement, she is debarred from doing openly and directly. (ii.) Russia wants to curry favour with the Balkan States, and she can afford to do so by crippling Turkey financially, because she is little interested in Turkish loans.

4. If satisfactory arrangements are not made at Paris about the Bagdad Railway security, it seems likely to jeopardise our agreement about the railway, &c., with Germany, and to retard a settlement of that question upon which so much depends.*

5. It seems to be the view of experts, *e.g.*, Sir R. Crawford, that if Turkey pays an indemnity she will be without hope of salvation. It is also his view that a similar result will follow if she is not relieved of a portion of her debt by the States who are about to annex a great portion of her former territory.†

For all these reasons I think that we should accept three guiding principles :—

(*a.*) No indemnity to be paid.
(*b.*) A portion of the debt to be assumed by the allies.
(*c.*) The portion of debt assumed under (*b*) should not necessarily include obligations in regard to kilometric guarantees for the railways in Asiatic Turkey, but those obligations should be transferred from existing European to equally good Asiatic securities.

I would suggest putting this proposal before Sir P. Harvey for such action as he may deem advisable.

A. P.

Foreign Office, June 25, 1913.

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* Such a settlement is not likely to be made for many months. Our agreement with Germany must be independent of that. I think this was made quite clear to Herr von Kuhlmann by Mr. Parker himself.—L. M.

† See passages marked on 26469.—L. M.

Please see Sir P. Harvey's letter appended hereto.

He has seen the minutes and I have discussed with him most of the points which are likely to be raised and informed him of your views on the indemnity question, but it will be useful to draw up a despatch dealing with some of the more important points, in order that there may be a record of your instructions.

As to point (*c*) (Mr. Parker's type-written minutes at the end), we have agreed not to obstruct Germany, but we could not actively assist in obtaining for her good Asiatic securities for the kilometric guarantees.

L. M.
A. N.
E. G.

Dear Mallet, *Paris, July* 1, 1913.

I regret I was unable to see you yesterday, but I hope to be in London again next Saturday.

I am much obliged to you for letting me see this paper, the minutes on which are useful.

I do not see how the allies can well be made to take over a share of the *kilometric guarantees* of the Bagdad Railway. I see no particular difficulty in Germany's obtaining alternative revenues as guarantees in lieu of those in the ceded territories.

Yours sincerely,
H. P. HARVEY.

[25425]

No. 36.

British Delegates to Financial Commission to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 4.)

(No. 8.) *Paris, June* 2, 1913.

Sir,

WE have the honour to refer to Sir Francis Bertie's despatch No. 286 of the 1st instant forwarding copy of a leading article which appeared in the "Temps" of the 1st instant with regard to the forthcoming Financial Commission, and to transmit two copies of the printed "preliminary documents"* referred to in the article in question.

It will be observed that the first twelve tables comprised in the print contain merely statistical information as to the various Turkish loans and advances, and the revenues on which they are guaranteed. Tables XIII and XIV, however, contain calculations, involving a number of debatable points, of the share of the Turkish debt which the Balkan States would be required to take over on the basis of the formula of the "spécialisation des gages."

The criticisms to which these calculations, based on documents presented by the German delegation, are open, were brought out in the informal discussions which took place some weeks ago between the French and German technical delegates, Sir Richard Crawford and Sir Paul Harvey, and it was not foreseen that they would be printed and distributed by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs without a clearer indication than is given in the preface that they purport to represent merely an *ex parte* statement of the case, in which no general concurrence had been expressed.

At an informal meeting which took place at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs between the French and German delegates and ourselves on Saturday, before the article in the "Temps" appeared, and before we knew that these documents had been communicated to the delegates of any other Powers, we pointed out the necessity of giving them a less equivocal form before they were distributed.

The principal German delegate expressed to Mr. Carnegie this morning great indignation at the article in the "Temps," which he said had evidently been dictated by the Russian Ambassador to M. Tardieu. He considered that the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs was also most blameworthy, for it was evident from the words "renseignements pris," in the first paragraph, that M. Tardieu had consulted the officials of the Ministry in regard to his article. M. de Lancken stated that he meant to speak very plainly at the Ministry, and to say that if the French Government intended to "faire la politique" in this way, the German delegates would withdraw from Paris and his Government would propose that the negotiations be carried on in London.

We have, &c.
H. P. HARVEY.
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE

[25429]

No. 37.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 4.)

(No. 291.) *Paris, June* 3, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour, with reference to my despatch No. 286 of the 1st instant, to transmit to you herewith a leading article from the "Journal des Débats,"* of to-day's date, answering the article in the "Temps," enclosed in my above-mentioned despatch, on the subject of the attitude which the French delegates on the forthcoming Financial Commission should adopt with regard to Russian desires.

The "Journal des Débats" criticises the "Temps" for drawing a parallel between the Algeciras Conference and the Financial Commission. In supporting France in the Moroccan question, Russia was not sacrificing any of her own interests, whereas in the matter of Turkish finance, France has important interests of her own to protect, and she might reasonably expect Russia to take them into consideration.

The idea of the "Temps," therefore, that France must subordinate her interests to Russian aims is altogether a wrong one.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE.

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* Not printed.

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[25637] No. 38.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 258.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, June 4, 1913.*

MESSRS. WHITTALL and other merchants represent it is essential that they should be allowed to ship cargoes of plantation seed from Rodosto, which have been sold for June shipment, failing which they incur very heavy losses.

In view of official statement by Bulgaria that port is mined, ships cannot go there, but merchants ask whether, seeing that a state of war no longer exists between Turkey and Bulgaria, they could not be given permission to send lighters into Rodosto.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[25647] No. 39.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 195. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 4, 1913.*

I UNDERSTAND that Cabinet will shortly present their resignation to the King, considering this as a necessary formality consequent on the conclusion of peace.

Military party, chiefly [group undecypherable] Stambulofist, General Savof, are already endeavouring to influence His Majesty to accept resignation when presented.

Fall of present Cabinet would, in any circumstances, strengthen position of war party, and tend to render coming conference between the allies abortive.

I am inclined to think that His Majesty will retain them in office, but M. Gueshof will, he informs me, under no circumstances face war with the allies. His Excellency comments on Greek Premier as a conciliatory asset in the forthcoming discussions. He told me he was in principle in favour of demobilisation, but he seemed to fear that it would be impracticable until outstanding questions had been to some extent threshed out.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[25648] No. 40.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 135.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 4, 1913.*

FOLLOWING received yesterday from Monastir, No. 22 :—

"I am informed that all the troops mentioned in my telegrams Nos. 16, 17, 18, 20, and 21 have been sent to Kuprulu with the commandant and staff of the 1st Morava division."

[25650] No. 41.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, June 4, 1913.*

BULGARIAN-GREEK agreement signed 3rd June, fixing a provisional line of demarcation on basis of actual occupation, with mutual undertaking not to exceed it.

[25385] No. 42.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 238.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 4, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 254 of 2nd June : Ships at Constantinople.

The Admiralty are anxious to withdraw "Zealandia," and would replace her by a large cruiser, either "Black Prince" or "Duke of Edinburgh."

You should ask for firman accordingly, and if it is refused "Zealandia" will remain.

[26034] No. 43.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 58.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 4, 1913.*

THE Greek Minister came to see me to-day, and conveyed to me in very complimentary terms the expression of the appreciation of M. Venizelos and the Greek Government of the part I had played to promote peace in connection with Balkan affairs.

For this I expressed my thanks very cordially.

The Minister said that he was instructed to say that, as the Powers had put aside the suggestion of a plebiscite to decide the question of southern Albania, they should at least send their own representatives to decide the frontier according to local conditions. To put a Greek population under Albanian rule would lead to endless trouble. Santi Quaranta was the only possible port for the south of Albania; Koritza was practically entirely Greek ; and so forth.

I explained to the Minister that strategical considerations had to be taken into account. Just as the Powers who were interested in strategical considerations affecting the North Sea, the English Channel, and the neighbouring region of Europe had found it necessary to guarantee the neutrality of Belgium to decide that it must be maintained as a separate entity, so Powers who were specially interested in other regions might be impelled by strategical interests to demand that particular parts should remain separate entities. Strategical interests had been put forward with regard to the islands of the Ægean Sea. It had been urged that the Turkish ownership of important islands near the mainland was necessary for the strategical protection of Turkey, who owned the mainland. With regard to southern Albania, Italy contended that, for strategical reasons, one Power must not be allowed to own the whole of both sides of the Corfu Canal.

The Minister argued against all this at every point, and I said I was not arguing the merits but merely stating the arguments of others to show the difficulties that had to be overcome.

I observed that what he no doubt wished was that the Greek view should be made to prevail on every point over the whole field of southern Albania and the Ægean islands. But a settlement could not be secured in this way. If there was to be a settlement the Greek view could be carried on some points, but not on everything. In the Italian and Austrian view the two cardinal points with regard to southern Albania were that a part of one side of the Corfu Canal must be included in Albania, and that Koritza also must be included. Apart from this, there was in addition the contention that the Koutzo-Vlachs, who formed a large block in that region, should go to Albania. But perhaps this might be overcome by giving guarantees to the Koutzo-Vlachs for their language, religion, schools, &c.

The Minister said that the south of Albania was more important to Greece than the islands, and he urged that no decision should be come to unless it would secure what Greece wanted.

I asked him what he thought would happen if no decision was come to by the Powers.

He replied that he thought things would remain as they were: Greece would continue in occupation.

I observed that Italy also would continue in occupation of Rhodes and other islands.

He contended that Italy was bound to give back these islands to Turkey.

On this I remarked that, if it was clear that the people of the islands were going to declare their annexation to Greece when Italy evacuated the islands, it was not likely that Turkey would demand their evacuation by Italy.

Finding that the idea of the Minister was that a decision might be indefinitely postponed by the Powers, I said that this was not the case. The matter had been hung up long enough, and within the next three or four weeks the *réunion* here must either come to a decision or conclude that no decision could be arrived at. In the latter event, there would no longer be anything to tie the hands of Italy and Austria,

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and they would have freedom of action with regard to southern Albania and the islands.

The Minister said that Italy and Austria would never agree to common action in Albania.

To this I replied that they might possibly agree to common action against Greece, and, without occupying Albania, they might occupy something that already belonged to Greece.

He seemed inclined to take the risk of this.

I repeated that if, within three or four weeks, the Powers announced that they could decide nothing about the south of Albania and the islands, the situation for Greece would not be agreeable.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[23858] No. 44.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir R. Paget.

(No. 36.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 4, 1913.

I HAVE received Mr. Crackanthorpe's despatch No. 102 of the 22nd ultimo relative to the imposition of export duties on tobacco by the Servian customs authorities at Ghevgheli, and I approve the language of the note addressed by you to the Servian Government on the subject.

I transmit to you herewith, for your information, copies of correspondence exchanged with His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople subsequently to the receipt of your despatch No. 88 of the 28th April,* from which it will be observed that the information furnished by Sir G. Lowther on the subject agrees with that obtained by His Majesty's vice-consul at Uskub.

I may add that the request for a report from Sir G. Lowther on the subject was made with a view to ascertain whether there was ground for a representation to the Servian Government such as, in fact, you have already made.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[20430] No. 45.

Memorandum communicated to M. Cambon.

ON the 21st April last the French Ambassador communicated to Sir E. Grey a programme of the Financial Commission which is to meet in Paris to discuss various financial questions arising out of the Balkan war.

His Majesty's Government accept the first three points of M. Cambon's memorandum. With regard to point 4, they are, as at present advised, opposed to an indemnity, but they cannot refuse to examine the question.

Foreign Office, June 4, 1913.

[20430] No. 46.

Sir Edward Grey to the Marquis Imperiali.

SIR E. GREY presents his compliments to the Italian Ambassador, and, with reference to his Excellency's memorandum of the 1st ultimo on the subject of the questions to be discussed by the Financial Commission in Paris, has the honour to forward herewith to the Marquis Imperiali a copy of a memorandum which has been received from the French Ambassador on the subject, and of the reply which Sir E. Grey has returned thereto.†

Foreign Office, June 4, 1213.

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* Part VIII, Nos. 161 and 447.

† No. 45 and Part VIII, No. 458.

[25689] No. 47.

Sir Edward Grey to the Marquis Imperiali.

Foreign Office, June 4, 1913.

My dear Ambassador,

I AM requested by His Majesty's Government to express to you how much they appreciate the message from the President of the Chamber. They are in the fullest sympathy with the satisfaction of the Italian Parliament at the conclusion of peace.

I must also add that I am very much touched by the kind reference to myself personally, which I esteem at a very high value.

Yours sincerely,
E. GREY.

[23031] No. 48.

Sir Edward Grey to Tewfik Pasha.

HIS Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Turkish Ambassador and has the honour to refer to his Highness's communication of the 8th April relative to the representation of the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt on the international commission about to meet in Paris to settle the financial questions arising from the present war.

Sir Edward Grey has the honour to inform Tewfik Pasha in reply that, in the view of His Majesty's Government, that administration, not being a Sovereign State, cannot properly be represented on a commission consisting of delegates of such States.

Sir E. Grey is of opinion that the proper course for the Administration of the Debt to pursue is to select a financial expert agreeable to themselves to proceed to Paris, not as a member of the commission, but with the object of making the views of the administration known to the delegates who, in their turn, would have the opportunity of consulting him, should they desire to do so, on all points as to which they might require information.

Foreign Office, June 4, 1913.

[23031] No. 49.

Foreign Office to Secretary, Council of Foreign Bondholders.

Foreign Office, June 4, 1913.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letters of the 17th and 21st of April and 5th ultimo, relative to the representation of the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt on the international commission about to meet in Paris to settle the financial questions arising from the present war, I am directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to inform you that in the view of His Majesty's Government that administration, not being a Sovereign State, cannot properly be represented on a commission consisting of delegates of such States.

Sir E. Grey is of opinion that the proper course for the Administration of the Debt to pursue is to select a financial expert agreeable to themselves to proceed to Paris, not as a member of the commission, but with the object of making the views of the administration known to the delegates who, in their turn, would have the opportunity of consulting him, should they desire to do so, on all points as to which they might require information.

I am, &c.
LOUIS MALLET.

[25685] No. 50.

Consul-General Wratislaw to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 15.)
Sir, *Canea, Crete, May* 27, 1913.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 5 of the 27th March reporting that the amount paid in to date for 3 per cent. surtax to the account of the six Powers was

then 359,746 fr., I have the honour to report that two further monthly payments have now raised the amount to 462,375 fr.

I have, &c.
A. C. WRATISLAW.

[25743] No. 51.

National Bank of Turkey to Foreign Office.—(Received June 5.)

Sir, 50, *Cornhill, London, June* 4, 1913.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th May on the subject of Turkish Treasury Bills, and we beg to convey our thanks to Secretary Sir Edward Grey for the instructions which have been given to His Majesty's Ministers at Athens and Sophia.

We venture to express our concurrence in the opinion expressed by Sir E. Grey concerning the arguments employed by the Greek Government, and to suggest that it is very desirable that the joint representations contemplated by Sir E. Grey should be made both to the Greek Government and to the Bulgarian Government. If the arguments of the Greek Government are left without a reply, it may be assumed by that Government that they are accepted as valid. Moreover, in consequence of the fact that the French Minister at Athens received instructions from his Government at an earlier date than the British Minister, the Greek Government has not been notified that the matter is one which affects British interests as well as French interests.

We shall esteem it a favour if we may be informed in due course of the reply which is received to the representations made by His Majesty's Minister at Sophia.

We beg, &c.
(For National Bank of Turkey),
H. BABINGTON SMITH, *President.*

[25785] No. 52.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Athens, June* 5, 1913.

ARRANGEMENT signed at Salonica between Greeks and Bulgarians provides for line of demarcation; no neutral zone. It starts from Valandova, passes by Doiran and Amatovo Lake, runs nearly due east to Nigrita, which remains Greek, thence to Elevtherai, Bulgarians retaining positions to which they advanced on Mount Pangaion.

Bulgarian Government have not yet replied to Servian proposal for immediate meeting of the four Prime Ministers.

[25791] No. 53.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 71.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June* 5, 1913.

MY despatch No. 55 of 31st May.

Minister for Foreign Affairs told Russian Minister yesterday that Roumania would mobilise in the event of war between Bulgaria and Servia.

[25637] No. 54.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, June* 5, 1913.

SIR G. LOWTHER'S telegram No. 258 of 4th June: Shipment of seed from Rodosto.

You should enquire of the Bulgarian Government whether it would not now be possible to facilitate shipment.

(Repeated to Constantinople, No. 242.)

[26320] No. 55.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 179.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 5, 1913.

IN the course of conversation to-day, the Turkish Ambassador asked whether the Powers had approached the question of the Ægean islands.

I said that they had done so in the winter, but since then the discussion of the question had been suspended until quite lately, owing to the Albanian difficulties. I hoped, however, that the Powers would now deal with it.

The Ambassador emphasised the necessity for Turkey to have the sovereignty of the islands, because she must be protected against smuggling.

I said that the important thing seemed to be that Turkey should be protected against anything like a strategical menace from the islands and against smuggling. On the other hand, the population of the islands was Greek, and to replace a Greek population under the hand of Turkey would lead to constant disturbances and unrest.

The Ambassador said that this was not desired: there would be complete autonomy.

I observed that the question was a very difficult one, because we could not have a number of new Cretes.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[26035] No. 56.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.**

(No. 120.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 5, 1913.

AT the *réunion* to-day, the following was agreed to:—

"Sur la proposition de l'Ambassadeur de Russie, la réunion pense qu'il y a lieu d'inviter les belligérants à réduire immédiatement leurs effectifs de guerre."

It appeared that the Turkish Government had raised with some or all of the Powers the question of proceeding with the international commission for the Turco-Bulgarian frontier.

I informed the *réunion* that I had already given instructions to ask the War Office to recommend an officer to take part in the work of the commission for the delimitation of the Enos–Media line. I was also making the same request of the War Office about the northern frontier of Albania.

We then proceeded to discuss the establishment of a Provisional Government for Albania, and the following was agreed to:—

"Sans envisager dès maintenant l'établissement d'un régime définitif en Albanie, la réunion pense qu'il y aurait lieu de procéder à l'institution d'une commission internationale de contrôle composée de délégués de chacune des Grandes Puissances avec l'adjonction d'un élément albanais. Cette commission procéderait sur place à l'étude d'une organisation progressive du pays et prendrait les mesures nécessaires au maintien de l'ordre. La première de ces mesures devrait être la constitution d'une gendarmerie instruite et commandée par des officiers européens empruntés à une Puissance neutre, à l'exclusion des six Grandes Puissances, des États balkaniques et de ceux qui ont des intérêts directs dans les régions des Balkans.

"Sir E. Grey fait observer qu'en attendant l'établissement d'un régime définitif il est difficile de concevoir un Gouvernement provisoire dépourvu d'un agent d'exécution. Il suggère la désignation par les Puissances d'un délégué spécial chargé de l'exécution des mesures prises par la commission de contrôle.

"Les Ambassadeurs de France et de Russie se rallient à cette idée.

"Les Ambassadeurs d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Italie ne peuvent se prononcer, car ils attendent la réponse de leurs Gouvernements respectifs aux observations présentées par l'Ambassadeur de France dans une réunion antérieure.

* Also to Sir F. Bertie (No. 356), Sir E. Goschen (No. 180), Sir R. Rodd (No. 150), and Mr. O'Beirne (No. 213).

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"Le Prince Lichnowsky adhère à la suggestion de Sir E. Grey, en exprimant l'opinion que l'organisation définitive devra comportera la nomination d'un prince.

"La réunion pense qu'il convient d'attirer l'attention des Gouvernements sur la nécessité d'aviser dès le début aux moyens financiers indispensables pour assurer les services de contrôle international et de gendarmerie."

The French Ambassador said that M. Vesnitch, one of the Servian delegates, had pressed for the promised declaration confirming the promise made to Servia in December last as regards railway communication with the Adriatic.

The Italian Ambassador observed that M. Vesnitch had said the same thing to him, and he had replied that the Italian Government had already approved of the desired confirmation.

The Austrian Ambassador said that there were one or two points being discussed with the Russian Government as to the exact meaning of the declaration made in December, and his Government were waiting till these were cleared up before sending him final instructions.

I pointed out that, if the confirmation was not given soon, the Servians would imagine that we were, in some way, going back upon what had been said in December. They might represent to me at any moment that they had signed the treaty of peace in the expectation that the confirmation would be given.

The Austrian Ambassador promised to telegraph to his Government.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[24423] No. 57.

Sir Edward Grey to M. Cambon.

HIS MAJESTY'S Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the French Ambassador, and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his Excellency's memorandum of the 27th May respecting the jurisdiction of the Commercial Tribunal of Salonica in the territories destined to be divided among the allies.

Sir E. Grey concurs in the view expressed by the French Government as to the undertaking that it would be desirable to obtain from the allies in this matter.

Foreign Office, June 6, 1913.

[24574] No. 58.

Sir Edward Grey to M. Cambon.

HIS Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has had the honour to receive the communication of the French Ambassador, dated the 27th ultimo, relative to the representation of the Balkan States on the International Financial Commission in Paris.

Sir E. Grey shares the view of the French Minister for Foreign Affairs that the task of fixing the procedure of the commission, and of deciding which of the questions treated concern all the States, and which of them should be reserved for settlement by the Great Powers alone should be left to the commission itself.

Foreign Office, June 6, 1913.

[24574] No. 59.

Sir Edward Grey to Prince Lichnowsky.

HIS Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the German Ambassador, and has the honour to refer to enquiries recently made by his Excellency as to the view of His Majesty's Government on the question of the representation of the Balkan States on the International Financial Commission in Paris.

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Sir E. Grey has the honour to inform Prince Lichnowsky that, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, the representatives of these States should be admitted to the commission with a deliberative voice to discuss all such questions as interest them. Questions with which the Great Powers only are concerned should be discussed by their delegates alone. The task of fixing the procedure of the commission, and of deciding which of the questions treated concern all the States, and which of them should be reserved for settlement by the Great Powers alone should be left to the commission itself.

Foreign Office, June 6, 1913.

[25921] No. 60.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 264.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, June* 6, 1913.

GRAND Vizier informs me that orders have been issued for relighting lighthouses, and the necessary preparations are being made for removing mines.

(Sent to Sophia and Athens.)

[25935] No. 61.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 6, 1913.

AUSTRIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs complained to me yesterday evening of the slow progress which is being made in drawing up the statute for Albania, and gave it as his opinion that, if every Power was to make suggestions and proposals with regard to it, nothing satisfactory would be produced. He thought it would be better to entrust drafting of the statute to one Power, the other Powers merely reserving the right to revise it. Minister for Foreign Affairs then said to me that the idea had come to him that it might be well to take Eastern Roumelian constitution as drafted by Herr von Kallay as a basis for the Albanian statute. He observed that, some years ago, M. Isvolsky had pointed to the above-mentioned constitution as a masterpiece of its kind. The Minister for Foreign Affairs added that he was not at present putting forward this idea officially, as he had not as yet consulted Italy in the matter, but it was possible that the Austrian Ambassador in London might shortly be instructed to talk to you on the subject.

[25939] No. 62.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 86. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 6, 1913.

I LEARN from a most confidential source that M. Danef expressed himself, while passing through Vienna, in a bitter tone against advice which was given to him in Paris by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs and M. Isvolsky. This was that the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs cede Salonica to Greece, and accept the revision of the treaty with Servia. With regard to Salonica, M. Danef seemed somewhat disposed to yield, but with regard to treaty revision, he said it was impossible to do so.

It appears that the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs recently instructed the Bulgarian Minister at St. Petersburgh to inform the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs that Bulgaria was willing to submit the question of disputed territories, as stated in treaty, to the arbitration of the Czar. The Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs replied that the Czar could only accept arbitration for all the territories in dispute. M. Danef is said to have remarked that this rendered arbitration impossible. I also learn that two Bulgarian generals in highest command reported last week that, if war broke out against Servia, Bulgarian army was ready to take action against Greece and to act on the defensive against Servia. In a fortnight, however, the Bulgarian army will, according to these generals, be ready to take the offensive against

Servia, with a good hope of being in Belgrade in three weeks. The important thing, therefore, for Bulgaria appears to be to gain time by carrying on negotiations. According to my informant, M. Danef seemed to be in doubt whether an offensive and defensive treaty had actually been signed between Greece and Servia. If no treaty existed, he seemed to hope that, by the cession of Salonica, Greece could be detached from Servia.

[26035] No. 63.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.**

(No. 246.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 6, 1913.

AT the *réunion* with Ambassadors to-day the following resolution was adopted :—

"Sur la proposition de l'Ambassadeur de Russie, la réunion pense qu'il y a lieu d'inviter les belligérants à réduire immédiatement leurs effectifs de guerre."

You should act accordingly when your colleagues are also instructed to do so.

[26930] No. 64.

Conférence de Saint-James.

PROTOCOLE No. 13.

Séance du 24 mai (6 juin) 1913.

Etaient présents :

Pour la Bulgarie :

M. Madjarov ;

Pour la Grèce :

MM. Skouloudis, Gennadius et Streit ;

Pour le Monténégro :

MM. Popovitch et le Comte de Voïnovitch ;

Pour la Serbie :

MM. Novakovitch, Nikolitch et Pavlovitch ;

Pour la Turquie :

Osman Nizamy Pacha et Ahmed Réchid Bey.

La séance est ouverte à 5 heures, sous la présidence de M. Madjarov.

Le protocole de la séance précédente, lu par le secrétaire, Diran Bey Noradounghian, est adopté.

Le Comte de Voïnovitch revient sur la question discutée dans la séance du 20 mai (2 juin), à savoir, le traité de paix doit-il être considéré comme un traité définitif ou comme un traité préliminaire ? A son avis, il n'y a aucun doute que le traité du 17 (30) mai soit un traité définitif.

M. Skouloudis pense que le traité est définitif mais incomplet. D'ailleurs, par la discussion qui s'engage on ne lui changera point le caractère dont sa teneur le revêt.

* Also to Sir F. Elliot (No. 82), Sir R. Paget (No. 92), Sir H. Bax-Ironside (No. 117), and Count de Salis (No. 67).

Après un échange de vues entre plusieurs délégués sur la même question, la conférence décide à l'unanimité de considérer le traité comme un traité de paix définitif et non préliminaire.

Revenant ensuite à l'ordre du jour, *le Comte de Voïnovitch* dit que, après avoir examiné le projet de protocole* que la délégation ottomane a distribué aux délégations à domicile deux jours auparavant, il a rédigé un contre-projet qu'il soumet à la haute assemblée.

M. Skouloudis rappelle que la délégation hellénique a déclaré à la dernière séance ne pouvoir prendre part aux travaux de la conférence tant que la délégation ottomane n'aura annoncé qu'elle accepte la remise en vigueur des traités et conventions suspendus par la déclaration de guerre. Néanmoins, pour donner une preuve de l'esprit de conciliation qui les anime, ainsi que de leur désir de ne pas laisser incomplète l'œuvre de la conférence, les délégués hellènes ont cru devoir assister à la réunion de ce jour. Toutefois, n'ayant pas pris part, pour la raison précitée, aux travaux du comité de rédaction élu à la réunion précédente, ils proposent de suspendre la séance, afin de prendre connaissance du projet de protocole qui vient d'être soumis à l'assemblée.

Osman Nizamy Pacha fait observer que le traité de paix, comme cela a été suffisamment démontré, quoique définitif, est incomplet. Parmi les questions qui n'y sont pas résolues certaines ont été laissées à l'appréciation de la commission financière de Paris, mais d'autres pourraient être réglées par la haute assemblée au moyen de protocoles annexes. Au nombre de celles-ci est la question de l'échange des prisonniers de guerre sur laquelle la délégation ottomane désirerait particulièrement voir s'établir un accord aussitôt que possible. Il déclare, à cette occasion, en priant la haute assemblée de prendre acte de sa déclaration, que si l'accord sur cette question ne s'établit pas de suite, en cas de réclamation tous frais qui en résulteraient à partir de ce moment seront à la charge de l'État dont la délégation aura refusé de signer l'accord.

M. Skouloudis dit que c'est précisément pour arriver à un résultat qu'il propose de suspendre la séance, afin de pouvoir prendre connaissance du projet de protocole et d'établir, comme il l'espère, une entente.

La séance est suspendue à 5 heures 40.

A la reprise de la séance à 6 heures ½, *le Comte de Voïnovitch* donne lecture d'un projet de protocole élaboré par les alliés, dont la teneur est la suivante :

"*Projet de Protocole.*

"ARTICLE 1er.

"Les prisonniers de guerre et les otages seront échangés dans le plus bref délai possible. Des commissaires spéciaux en régleront les modalités.

"ARTICLE 2.

"Une amnistie pleine et entière est accordée de part et d'autre à toutes les personnes compromises dans les événements qui ont précédé ou suivi la déclaration de guerre.

"En conséquence, aucun individu ne pourra être poursuivi ni inquiété en raison d'actes ayant une relation quelconque avec la guerre et toute condamnation judiciaire ou mesure administrative motivée par des faits de cette nature sera *ipso facto* annulée.

"ARTICLE 3.

"Les musulmans originaires des territoires cédés ou y ayant actuellement leur domicile auront le droit d'opter pour la nationalité ottomane moyennant une déclaration à faire à l'autorité compétente dans l'espace de trois ans à partir de l'échange des ratifications du traité de paix.

* Voir annexe au présent protocole.

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"Toutefois, l'exercice de ce droit d'option est subordonné, quant aux personnes domiciliées dans les provinces cédées, au transport de leur domicile et à leur établissement en Turquie.

"Il est entendu que, tant que le droit d'option n'aura pas été exercé, les individus auxquels ce droit appartient seront traités comme des ressortissants de l'État cessionnaire.

"ARTICLE 4.

"Toutes les questions relatives à la condition juridique des habitants musulmans des territoires annexés, à leurs biens immeubles situés dans ces provinces, à l'organisation hiérarchique des communautés musulmanes et aux biens vakoufs, formeront l'objet de conventions spéciales qui seront négociées conjointement avec celles prévues dans l'article 7 du traité de paix.

"ARTICLE 5.

"Il est entendu entre les Hautes Parties contractantes que jusqu'à la conclusion des conventions prévues par l'article 7 du traité de paix, les traités, conventions et actes conclus ou en vigueur entre les Etats alliés et la Turquie et suspendus par l'effet de la guerre, seront remis et maintenus en vigueur, et que les gouvernements respectifs seront placés l'un vis-à-vis de l'autre, ainsi que leurs ressortissants, dans la même situation où ils se trouvaient avant la déclaration de la guerre.

"Exception est faite pour les conventions conclues entre les États alliés et la Turquie sur l'organisation hiérarchique religieuse des musulmans.

"ARTICLE 6.

"Les relations postales et télégraphiques entre l'Empire ottoman d'une part et les États alliés de l'autre devront être rétablies dès l'échange des ratifications du présent traité, conformément aux stipulations en vigueur au moment de la déclaration de guerre."

Sur la demande de la délégation ottomane, la discussion de ce projet est ajournée à la prochaine séance, qui est fixée au samedi 25 mai (7 juin), à 5 heures de l'après-midi, pour permettre à cette délégation d'en examiner les articles en détail.

La séance est levée à 7 heures ½.

Le Président :
M. IV. MADJAROFF.

Les Secrétaires :
H. NORMAN.
S. TCHAPRACHIKOV.
A. RIZO-RANGABÉ.
S. Y. GROUITCH.
D. NORADOUNGHIAN.

ANNEXE AU PROTOCOLE No. 13.

ARTICLE 1er.

L'ÉVACUATION des territoires qui, en vertu du traité susmentionné, devront faire retour à l'Empire ottoman, aura lieu dans le délai de vingt jours à dater de la signature du présent protocole.

Néanmoins, les territoires et les localités dont la rétrocession à l'Empire ottoman sera décidée par les six Grandes Puissances seront évacués de même dans le délai de vingt jours à partir de la décision susdite.

Les opérations d'évacuation devront commencer immédiatement.

Le mode d'évacuation et de remise des territoires sera déterminé par les délégués spéciaux des parties intéressées.

ARTICLE 2.

Les prisonniers de guerre et otages seront échangés dans le délai de à partir de la signature du présent protocole, ou plus tôt si faire se peut.

Cet échange aura lieu par les soins de commissaires spéciaux nommés de part et d'autre.

ARTICLE 3.

Une amnistie pleine et entière est accordée par les Parties contractantes à toutes les personnes qui ont pris part aux hostilités ou qui se sont compromises dans les événements politiques antérieurs au présent traité.

ARTICLE 4.

La vie, l'honneur, les biens, la religion et les coutumes des habitants musulmans et non-musulmans des territoires cédés seront scrupuleusement respectés.

La liberté et la pratique extérieure du culte leur seront assurées.

Ils jouiront des mêmes droits civils et politiques que les sujets d'origine de l'État auquel les territoires qu'ils habitent sont annexés.

Le nom de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan continuera à être prononcé dans les prières publiques des musulmans de ces territoires.

Aucune atteinte ne pourra être apportée à l'autonomie et à l'organisation hiérarchique des communautés musulmanes ou non-musulmanes existantes ou qui pourraient se former, ni à l'administration des fonds et immeubles qui leur appartiennent.

Aucune entrave ne pourra également être apportée aux rapports des particuliers et communautés musulmans avec leurs chefs spirituels qui dépendront du Cheikh-ul-Islamat à Constantinople, lequel donnera l'investiture aux muftis en chef.

La nomination par élection des muftis et des muftis en chef, leur destitution et leurs attributions seront régies conformément à la convention turco-bulgare sur les muftis.

Les tribunaux locaux du Chéri continueront à exercer leur juridiction en matière religieuse, c'est-à-dire dans les questions de mariage, de divorce, de pension alimentaire, de gestion des biens des orphelins, de testaments, de succession, de tutelle et d'autres matières du Chéri, ainsi que de la surveillance de la gestion des mutévellis, des vakoufs et de l'examen de leurs comptes.

ARTICLE 5.

Les habitants des territoires cédés par l'Empire ottoman auront le droit d'émigrer ou de fixer leur domicile en Turquie.

Un délai de 5 ans leur est accordé à partir de la conclusion du présent traité. Les personnes qui, pendant ce délai, auront émigré dans l'Empire ottoman ou y auront fixé leur domicile resteront ottomanes.

ARTICLE 6.

Tous les émigrés des territoires cédés qui, conformément aux dispositions de l'article 7, ont conservé leur nationalité ottomane, de même que tous les habitants qui, ayant acquis la nationalité de l'État cessionnaire desdits territoires, se seraient rendus dans l'Empire ottoman ou à l'étranger, continueront à conserver leurs propriétés immobilières sises dans ces territoires, à les affermer ou à les faire administrer par des tiers.

Le droit de propriété immobilière, tel qu'il résulte de la loi ottomane sur les fermes, pâturages, prairies, pacages, forêts et toute espèce de terrains ou autres immeubles possédés par des particuliers, des personnes morales, des communes et des villages en vertu de la susdite loi, de firmans, bérats, hodjets, tapous, mulknamés et autres titres délivrés par les autorités Impériales ottomanes compétentes ou en vertu des inscriptions dans les registres fonciers (defterhané) dans les territoires cédés, sera reconnu par le gouvernement qui les aura annexés.

Aucune modification restreignant les droits des propriétaires ne pourra être introduite dans les territoires annexés que moyennant une juste et préalable indemnité proportionnelle.

De même, nul ne pourra être privé de sa propriété que pour cause d'utilité publique dûment constatée, moyennant une telle indemnité.

Aucun propriétaire ne pourra être forcé de vendre ses biens aux cultivateurs ou à des tiers, ni de leur en céder une partie, de même qu'aucune modification ne sera introduite dans les rapports existant entre les propriétaires et les cultivateurs ou

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métayers, si ce n'est par une loi générale applicable à tout le royaume auquel sont annexés les territoires cédés.

Toute loi qui ne trouverait qu'en grande partie son application utile dans lesdits territoires ne pourra être considérée comme loi générale.

ARTICLE 8.

Les sujets de chacun des Etats contractants dont la situation est régulière devant la loi pourront séjourner et circuler librement comme par le passé sur le territoire des autres Etats contractants.

Chaque Etat contractant se réserve la faculté de refuser l'accès de son territoire à ceux des sujets des autres Etats qui auraient subi des condamnations judiciaires d'ordre pénal ou qui auraient été l'objet d'un arrêté d'expulsion en raison de leurs antécédents et méfaits.

ARTICLE 9.

Les relations postales et télégraphiques entre l'Empire ottoman d'une part et la Bulgarie, la Grèce, le Monténégro et la Serbie d'autre part, devront être rétablies dès l'échange des ratifications du présent acte, conformément aux stipulations des conventions, arrangements et règlements postaux et télégraphiques de l'Union internationale.

Immédiatement après les ratifications précitées et en exécution du paragraphe précédent, les administrations des Parties contractantes désigneront, tant pour leurs relations terminales que de transit, les bureaux chargés, de part et d'autre, de l'échange des dépêches, valises, colis et des envois de toutes sortes, admis par les pays faisant partie de l'Union internationale susmentionnée au transport postal par les voies de terre et de mer.

De même, les administrations des Parties contractantes prendront les mesures nécessaires pour relier au moyen de fils directs spéciaux leurs réseaux respectifs et désigneront les bureaux chargés d'assurer l'échange des correspondances terminales et de transit à écouler par ces fils.

Les Parties contractantes s'engagent également à rétablir et à maintenir les communications directes existant avant les hostilités entre la Turquie d'une part et la Grèce, la Bosnie, la Hongrie et l'Italie d'autre part.

Les câbles télégraphiques appartenant à l'Etat ottoman qui relient ses possessions à celles qu'il a cédées resteront la propriété exclusive de la Turquie.

L'État ottoman aura le droit de percevoir une taxe supplémentaire spéciale pour le parcours de ces câbles.

ARTICLE 10.

La Couronne ottomane continuera à conserver ses propriétés immobilières. Elle pourra les vendre, les administrer ou les affermer par des fondés de pouvoirs.

ARTICLE 11.

Les contribuables et les propriétés dans les territoires cédés seront franchis des impôts arriérés dus jusqu'au jour de la signature du traité de Londres du 30 mai 1913, et qui ne seraient pas affectés à des emprunts, à des avances et à des garanties kilométriques des chemins de fer."

ARTICLE 12.

Toutes les contestations et divergences qui surviendraient dans l'interprétation ou l'application des stipulations du présent protocole seront réglées par l'arbitrage à La Haye conformément au compromis suivant.

Compromis d'Arbitrage.

ARTICLE 1er.

En cas où quelque divergence ou litige surviendrait dans l'interprétation et l'application du protocole annexé au traité de paix entre le gouvernement Impérial ottoman d'une part, et l'un des gouvernements Royaux de Bulgarie, de Grèce, de Monténégro ou de Serbie de l'autre, cette divergence ou ce litige sera déféré à l'arbitrage à La Haye conformément aux dispositions ci-après.

ARTICLE 2.

Le gouvernement demandeur notifiera au gouvernement défendeur la ou les questions qu'il entend soumettre à l'arbitrage et donnera à leur sujet des indications succinctes mais précises.

ARTICLE 3.

Le tribunal arbitral auquel la ou lesdites questions seront soumises, sera composé de cinq membres, lesquels seront désignés de la manière suivante :

Chaque partie, aussitôt que possible et dans un délai qui n'excédera pas deux mois à partir de la date de la notification spécifiée dans l'article précédent, devra nommer deux arbitres.

Le surarbitre sera choisi par le Conseil fédéral de la Confédération suisse.

Si la partie défenderesse ne nomme pas ses arbitres dans le délai précité de deux mois, elle pourra le faire jusqu'au jour de la première réunion du tribunal arbitral. Passé ce délai, ce dernier se constituera valablement par le surarbitre et par les deux arbitres choisis par la partie demanderesse.

ARTICLE 4.

Les Puissances en litige se feront représenter auprès du tribunal arbitral par des agents, conseils ou avocats en conformité des provisions de l'article 62 de la convention de La Haye pour le règlement pacifique des conflits internationaux.

Ces agents, conseils ou avocats seront désignés par les parties à temps pour que le fonctionnement de l'arbitrage ne subisse aucun retard.

Toutefois, si la partie défenderesse s'en abstient, il sera procédé à son égard par défaut.

ARTICLE 5.

Le tribunal arbitral, une fois constitué, se réunira à La Haye à une date qui sera fixée par les arbitres et dans le délai d'un mois à partir de la nomination du surarbitre. Après le règlement—en conformité du texte et de l'esprit de la convention de La Haye de 1907—de toutes les questions de procédure qui pourraient surgir et qui ne seraient pas prévues par le présent compromis, ledit tribunal ajournera sa prochaine séance à la date qu'il fixera.

Toutefois, il reste convenu que le tribunal ne pourra ouvrir les débats sur les questions en litige ni avant les deux mois ni plus tard que les trois mois qui suivront la remise du contre-mémoire ou de la contre-réplique prévu par l'article 7.

ARTICLE 6.

La procédure arbitrale comprendra deux phases distinctes : l'instruction écrite et les débats qui consisteront dans le développement oral des moyens des parties devant le tribunal.

La seule langue dont fera usage le tribunal et dont l'emploi sera autorisé devant lui sera la langue française.

ARTICLE 7.

Dans le délai de dix mois au plus tard à dater de la notification prévue à l'article 2, la partie demanderesse devra remettre à chacun des membres du tribunal arbitral en cinq exemplaires et à la partie défenderesse en trente exemplaires, les copies complètes, écrites ou imprimées de son mémoire contenant toutes pièces à l'appui de sa demande lesquelles se réfèreraient à la ou aux questions en litige.

Dans un délai de dix mois au plus tard après cette remise, la partie défenderesse devra remettre à chacun des membres du tribunal ainsi qu'à la partie demanderesse, en autant d'exemplaires que ci-dessus, les copies complètes, manuscrites ou imprimées de son contre-mémoire avec toutes les pièces à l'appui.

Dans le délai d'un mois après cette remise, la partie demanderesse notifiera au président du tribunal arbitral si elle a l'intention de présenter une réplique. Dans ce cas, elle aura quatre mois au plus, à compter de cette notification, pour communiquer ladite réplique dans les mêmes conditions que le mémoire. La partie défenderesse aura alors cinq mois à compter de cette communication pour présenter sa contre-réplique dans les mêmes conditions que le contre-mémoire.

Les délais fixés par le présent article pourront être prolongés de commun accord par les parties ou le tribunal, quand il le jugera nécessaire, pour arriver à une décision juste.

Mais le tribunal ne prendra pas en considération les mémoires, contre-mémoires

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et autres communications qui lui seront présentées par les parties après l'expiration du dernier délai fixé par lui.

ARTICLE 8.

Si dans les mémoires ou autres pièces échangées, l'une ou l'autre partie s'est référée ou a fait allusion à un document ou papier en sa possession exclusive dont elle n'aura pas joint la copie, elle sera tenue, si l'autre partie le demande, de lui en donner copie au plus tard dans les trente jours.

ARTICLE 9.

Les décisions du tribunal arbitral sur les questions en litige seront prononcées autant que possible dans le délai minimum d'un mois après la clôture par le président des débats relatifs à cette ou ces questions.

ARTICLE 10.

Le jugement du tribunal arbitral sera définitif et devra être exécuté strictement sans aucun retard.

ARTICLE 11.

Chaque partie supporte ses propres frais et une part égale des frais du tribunal.

ARTICLE 12.

En tout ce qui n'est pas prévu par le présent compromis, les stipulations de la convention de La Haye de 1907 pour le règlement pacifique des conflits internationaux seront appliquées aux arbitrages résultant du présent compromis à l'exception, toutefois, des articles qui ont été réservés par les parties signataires du traité de paix.

Fait à Londres, le

[25879] No. 65.

Council of Foreign Bondholders to Foreign Office.—(*Received June* 6.)

17, *Moorgate Street, London,*
June 5, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir L. Mallet's letter of the 4th instant, relative to the representation of the bondholders on the International Commission about to meet in Paris to settle the financial questions arising from the recent war between Turkey and the Balkan allies.

The council greatly regret that Sir Edward Grey considers that the bondholders cannot properly be represented on the commission as constituted.

It seems to the council that it is only just and fair that those whose property and rights are being dealt with should be present and have the opportunity of stating their case.

In view of the actual constitution of the commission as published in the press, the interests of British holders of Turkish bonds appear to be less strongly represented than those of several other countries.

I enclose copy of a letter which has been addressed by the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt to the president of the Paris conference, with which this council is entirely in agreement, and they venture to ask that His Majesty's Government will be kind enough to instruct their delegates to support the views therein set forth.

I have, &c.
JAMES P. COOPER, *Secretary.*

Enclosure in No. 65.

Sir A. Block to M. Pichon.

Paris, le 3 *juin*, 1913.

M. le Président,

AU moment où les représentants des Grandes Puissances, ainsi que de l'Empire ottoman et des Gouvernements balkaniques, sont réunis pour le règlement des questions d'ordre financier résultant tant des cessions territoriales, sanctionnées par le traité de paix du 30 mai, 1913, que de l'état de guerre auquel ce traité a mis fin, le Conseil

d'Administration de la Dette publique ottomane, en vue d'assurer la pleine sauvegarde des droits de ses mandats, croit devoir soumettre à l'attention bienveillante de la Commission financière internationale les considérations suivantes :—

En vertu du décret Impérial ottoman du 28 mouharrem, 1299 (8 (20) décembre, 1881), sanctionnant les arrangements intervenus entre le Gouvernement Impérial ottoman et ses créanciers, à la suite des déclarations échangées au Congrès de Berlin, les revenus indiqués à l'article 8 de ce décret ont été cédés aux porteurs de la dette faisant l'objet de ce même décret d'une manière absolue et irrévocable, jusqu'à l'extinction de cette dette.

Cette cession a été confirmée expressément par le décret-annexe du 22 djémazi-ul-akhir, 1321 (1er (14) septembre, 1903), et ledit décret a été communiqué aux Puissances, qui en ont pris acte.

Une partie importante des revenus des territoires cédés par la Turquie appartient intégralement, conformément aux termes des décrets ci-dessus mentionnés, aux porteurs de la dette publique ottomane.

Les porteurs sont en droit d'espérer que ni lesdites cessions territoriales ni l'état de guerre qui les a précédés ne porteront préjudice à leurs droits contractuels de propriété, droits qui, reconnus par les Puissances, constituent des charges réelles grévant les provinces cédés, et devant, suivant les prescriptions du droit international, être entièrement respectées par les Gouvernements cessionnaires.

En conséquence, ils demandent que les États qui seront substitués à la Turquie dans les territoires cédés soient tenus de leur verser l'équivalent exact des sommes, nettes de frais, perçues dans ces territoires, sur les revenus qui leur appartiennent, de leur affecter, pour ce versement, les gages existants ou d'autres, d'accord avec le Conseil d'Administration, et de les dédommager des pertes occasionnées par eux.

Pour mieux assurer les droits des porteurs, et, en même temps, afin de liquider dans un intérêt commun, d'une manière pratique et définitive, les parts contributives incombant aux États cessionnaires, le Conseil d'Administration de la Dette publique ottomane estime qu'il y a lieu d'obtenir de ces États le payement du montant capitalisé de ces mêmes parts.

Le Conseil d'Administration ajoute que si, par les dispositions du décret-annexe (article 7) les porteurs ont consenti à ce que le Gouvernement ottoman participât aux excédents éventuels des recettes nettes de l'Administration de la Dette publique ottomane, cette participation ne saurait porter atteinte à leur droit de revendiquer la totalité du produit des revenus cédés.

En effet, suivant les dispositions de ce dernier décret, les recettes nettes, fournies par tous les revenus possédés par les porteurs, sans exception, doivent faire masse commune, pour être appliquées au service de l'annuité qui y est stipulée. C'est seulement après constatation, en fin d'année, d'un surplus, produit par l'ensemble des revenus, que 75 pour cent de ce surplus éventuel doit revenir au Gouvernement ottoman. Il est vrai qu'un excédent existe actuellement. Mais il convient, d'autre part, de signaler que cet excédent a reçu, antérieurement à la guerre balkanique et conformément à des conventions auxquelles le Conseil d'Administration de la Dette publique ottomane a donné son adhésion, des affectations nouvelles dont le respect s'impose également aux États cessionnaires.

Les porteurs rappellent enfin que la Serbie, le Monténégro, et la Grèce ne se sont pas acquittés des sommes qu'ils doivent en vertu du Traité de Berlin (articles 33 et 42) et de la Convention turco-hellénique du 24 mai, 1881 (article 10)—sommes qui ont été affectées au service de la dette publique ottomane, d'après les stipulations du décret de mouharrem—et qu'ils sont en droit de renouveler une réclamation restée jusqu'à ce jour sans réponse, malgré les démarches réitérées du Conseil d'Administration de la Dette publique ottomane.

Pleinement confiants dans la sagesse et dans l'équité de la Commission financière, les porteurs de la dette publique ottomane sont convaincus que cette commission prendra toutes les dispositions nécessaires à la garantie et au maintien de leurs droits et voudra bien éviter toute décision de nature à modifier les clauses du décret de mouharrem et du décret-annexe, ou à affecter les droits conférés par ces mêmes décrets sans leur assentiment.

C'est dans ce sentiment que le Conseil d'Administration de la Dette publique ottomane vous prie, &c.

Le Président du Conseil d'Administration,
de la Dette publique ottomane,
ADAM BLOCK.

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[26008] No. 66.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 491.)
Sir, *Constantinople, June 2, 1913*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's consul-general at Smyrna, reporting the extension of martial law to various towns in the neighbourhood of that city.

The proclamation of martial law in the places mentioned would seem difficult to account for in the present state of affairs, but the Grand Vizier, to whom I mentioned the matter, informs me that this action has been taken in consequence of the large number of arms introduced in contraband by Greeks all along the coast and distributed amongst the Greek (Rayah) population of those districts.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 66.

Consul-General Barnham to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 35.)
Sir, *Smyrna, May 22, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 137 of the 19th November last, reporting the proclamation of martial law at Smyrna, I have the honour to report that by Imperial iradé a state of siege has been now proclaimed at Pergamos, Ayasmat, Phocea, Vourla, Karabournou, Tchesmé, Svrihissar, Koushadassi, Mylassa, Boudroum, Moughla, Mamarice, Keuytaiyez, Macri, and its neighbourhood.

I beg to forward herewith copy of the proclamation published in the "Réforme" of yesterday's date.*

This is probably part of a general measure adopted with respect to other parts of the Empire, as the districts specified are not at present in a disturbed state.

I have, &c.
HENRY D. BARNHAM.

[26010] No. 67.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 494.)
Sir, *Constantinople, June 2, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's consul-general at Salonica, reporting on the relations between the allies.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 67.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 48.)
Sir, *Salonica, May 26, 1913.*

IN continuation of my immediately preceding despatch of the 24th instant concerning the latest conflict between Greek and Bulgarian troops in the neighbourhood of Mount Pangheion, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the fighting appears to have been stopped again on the evening of that day, the Bulgarians remaining in possession of Vultchista, Koltchak, Radolivos, and Semaltos (all of which they had captured from the Greeks), and probably also of Pirvishta.

The Greeks still have no accurate return of their casualties, which, however, may probably be estimated at about 300.

A captain and two subalterns are known to have been killed, whilst the lieutenant-colonel commanding the 19th regiment, and several other officers, were amongst the

* Not printed.

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wounded. Of the latter 197 were brought here yesterday afternoon by the hospital ship "Albania" and another vessel, whilst about 50 more slightly wounded remained at the front. Nothing is known in regard to the losses of the Bulgarians.

Yesterday, as the Greek cruiser "Averoff," proceeding from Lemnos towards Tchai Aghzi, passed in front of Cavalla, the artillery recently posted by the Bulgarians behind that town opened fire on her, first with three big guns and then with three volleys from entire batteries. The "Averoff" did not return the fire, but immediately reported here by wireless telegraphy, enquiring whether war had been declared. Shortly afterwards a complaint was lodged by General Bessaptchieff with the Military Governor to the effect that rifle shots had been fired from the "Averoff" in the direction of the shore at a point which Admiral Kondouriotis declares that his vessel never approached. The object of the Bulgarian complaint, therefore, would seem to have been merely to anticipate the protest which they expected to be made by the Greeks.

Numerous complaints are being received here from the Greek population of the interior in regard to the persecution to which it is alleged that they are being subjected by the Bulgarians. The Greek Bishop of Doiran, for instance, was recently made a prisoner in his own house, the pretext being that the authorities were unable to guarantee that, if he went out, he might not be murdered by one of the comitajis with whom the place was filled.

The Bishop of Stroumnitza was forbidden to visit the villages in his diocese, which he attempted to do with an escort of Servian soldiers. The elders of two villages which he succeeded in reaching were summoned to Stroumnitza by the Bulgarian civil authorities and severely beaten for entertaining him.

Greek landowners are unable to visit their property in the Bulgarian districts, or to dispose of their produce any more freely than their Mussulman neighbours. All over the country, indeed, the complaint is being raised that "there is less liberty, as there is no more security, for those not belonging to the dominant race, than there was under the Turkish régime."

I have, &c.
HARRY H. LAMB.

[26004] No. 68.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 298.)
Sir, *Paris, June 6, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith, with reference to my despatch No. 291 of the 3rd instant, a leading article from to-day's issue of the "Temps" on the subject of the attitude to be adopted by the French delegates at the International Financial Commission.*

The writer maintains the view set forth in the article enclosed in my despatch No. 286 of the 1st instant, that questions of political importance are involved as well as questions of finance, which implies that France should support Russian aims at the Finance Commission.

The Triple *Entente* must not, the "Temps" declares, be allowed to appear divided for lack of a previous understanding, and the argument that there is no danger to-day for the Triple *Entente*, and that therefore it is possible to approach the matter from a purely technical point of view to the exclusion of political issues is false and against the sentiment of public opinion.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE.

[26147] No. 69.

Sir H. Bax Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 196.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Sophia, June 7, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of 4th June.

Danef has returned. Cabinet has resigned on account, as the Prime Minister informs me, of internal differences.

* Not printed.

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[25935] No. 70.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.

(No. 176.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 7, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 85 of 6th June: Albania.

Resolution adopted at *réunion* on Thursday, which Austrian Ambassador has presumably telegraphed to Minister for Foreign Affairs, would provide the quickest and most practical solution. It is in effect to appoint at once a Provisional Government, with an executive head chosen by the Powers and a gendarmerie drawn from one minor Power.

[26930] No. 71.

Conférence de Saint-James.

PROTOCOLE No. 11.

Séance du 25 mai (7 juin) 1913.

Étaient présents :

Pour la Bulgarie :

M. Madjarov ;

Pour la Grèce :

MM. Skouloudis, Gennadius et Streit ;

Pour le Monténégro :

MM. Popovitch et le Comte de Voinovitch ;

Pour la Serbie :

MM. Novakovitch, Nikolitch et Pavlovitch ;

Pour la Turquie :

Osman Nizamy Pacha, Batzaria Effendi et Ahmed Réchid Bey.

La séance est ouverte à 5 heures 35, sous la présidence de M. Skouloudis.

Le protocole de la séance précédente, lu par le secrétaire, M. Tchaprachikov, est adopté.

Le Président rappelle qu'à la dernière séance la délégation ottomane s'est réservé de prendre connaissance du projet de protocole présenté par les alliés et a promis de faire connaître sa réponse à la séance actuelle. Il donne, en conséquence, la parole au premier délégué ottoman.

Osman Nizamy Pacha, procédant à l'examen du projet, constate que l'article 1er du projet ottoman, concernant l'évacuation, a été omis, et dit qu'il tient à ce qu'une disposition à ce sujet figure dans le protocole. Passant à l'article 1er du projet des alliés, il demande qu'un délai soit fixé pour l'échange des prisonniers de guerre. Il convient que la fixation d'un tel délai présente des difficultés, mais observe qu'elle est d'usage dans tous les traités de cette nature.

M. Madjarov déclare qu'il n'a aucune objection à la fixation d'un délai, mais qu'il ne lui est pas possible de le déterminer, les autorités militaires ayant seule qualité pour le faire. Il explique à ce sujet que la Bulgarie détient 95,000 prisonniers de guerre et que pour les transporter de Sofia à Constantinople il faudrait au moins trois mois,

le chemin de fer qui relie les deux capitales étant à voie unique, de sorte qu'il ne peut circuler sur lui que deux trains par jour. Il faudrait donc pour le transport 150 trains.

Il tient cependant à répéter que le gouvernement bulgare n'a aucune intention de retenir inutilement les prisonniers.

A une question du Président, *M. Madjarov* répond qu'à son avis il serait préférable de fixer le délai à six mois.

Le Président, sans s'opposer à la fixation d'un délai, tient à ce que l'échange s'effectue après le règlement des frais et à ce que mention en soit insérée dans l'article relatif à l'échange des prisonniers. Cette disposition représente un principe de droit international qui a été reconnu à la conférence de La Haye.

Osman Nizamy Pacha s'oppose à l'insertion de ces mots, car la question des frais, étant une question financière, n'est pas de la compétence de la haute assemblée. Il a d'ailleurs déjà observé, à la séance précédente, qu'il ne pouvait s'occuper du principe des frais. Il n'a fait que déclarer que ces frais, en cas de réclamation de leur chef, seraient à partir de ce jour à la charge des gouvernements responsables du retard.

Le Président demande à Osman Nizamy Pacha s'il conteste le principe même de l'indemnité pour l'entretien des prisonniers.

Osman Nizamy Pacha répond qu'il ne peut ni admettre ni contester le principe, car il est en dehors de sa compétence.

Batzaria Effendi déclare de même que le principe n'est pas contesté. Il n'est ni accepté ni rejeté, car il ne rentre pas dans la compétence de la haute assemblée. Il rappelle que l'article relatif aux prisonniers, rédigé à l'unanimité par les alliés à la séance précédente et remis à la délégation ottomane, est présenté actuellement sous une forme différente. On y propose, en effet, une modification essentielle qui touche une question dépassant la compétence de la conférence. Il prie les alliés de maintenir leur premier texte, car il ne peut, pour les raisons indiquées, nuire ni à leurs intérêts ni à leurs droits.

Le Président dit que l'adjonction qu'il propose a été provoquée par les explications d'Osman Nizamy Pacha. Hier tous avaient l'impression que le principe de l'indemnité était admis, d'autant plus qu'Osman Nizamy Pacha lui-même avait dit que les frais seraient, à partir d'une certaine date, à la charge des alliés. Du moment cependant où la délégation ottomane veut renvoyer la question des frais à la commission de Paris, il est obligé d'insister sur l'énonciation du principe dans l'article, quitte à mentionner que la fixation de la somme est renvoyée à la commission de Paris.

Le Comte de Voïnovitch remarque qu'il ne s'agit en somme que d'une question de rédaction. Le principe est général, mais est-il opportun de l'insérer ? Si la délégation hellénique y tient, on pourrait insérer au procès-verbal les déclarations de M. Skouloudis et d'Osman Nizamy Pacha et admettre l'article tel quel.

La conférence décide de réserver l'article relatif aux prisonniers à une discussion ultérieure et de passer à l'article 2 du projet des alliés.

Osman Nizamy Pacha déclare que la délégation ottomane accepte le texte de l'article 2 à la condition que le mot "politiques" soit ajouté après le mot "événements."

La conférence accepte cette modification.

L'article 3 est également accepté.

Osman Nizamy Pacha observe que l'article 4 supprime complètement les demandes ottomanes. Par exemple, il n'y est pas fait mention du régime applicable aux vakoufs jusqu'à la conclusion des nouvelles conventions. Il rappelle que la délégation ottomane demande que ce régime soit celui du *statu quo ante bellum*.

Le Président déclare que la délégation hellénique n'aurait aucune objection au maintien, dans l'intervalle, du *statu quo ante bellum* en ce qui concerne les fondations pieuses.

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M. Madjarov déclare insister sur le maintien de l'article 4, tel qu'il a été rédigé par les alliés.

M. Novakovitch déclare également qu'il faut s'en tenir à la rédaction primitive de l'article 4.

Batzaria Effendi fait observer que la délégation ottomane ne rejette pas l'article 4 ; au contraire, elle l'accepte, mais désire y ajouter un amendement, dont il donne lecture :

"Jusqu'à la conclusion desdites conventions, les droits de propriété immobilière, tel qu'ils résultent de la législation ottomane sur les immeubles de toutes sortes et espèces, possédés par des particuliers, par la Couronne Impériale ottomane, ou par des personnes morales en vertu de la susdite législation, seront entièrement respectés. De même, aucun changement ne sera introduit au régime établi d'après ladite législation, dans toutes les fondations pieuses (biens vakoufs en général). La liberté et la pratique extérieure du culte et les coutumes et institutions juridiques et religieuses des musulmans seront respectées, aucune entrave ne sera apportée à leurs relations établies avec leurs chefs spirituels qui dépendent du Cheikh-ul-Islamat à Constantinople et les tribunaux du Chéri continueront à exercer leur juridiction en matière religieuse, c'est-à-dire, dans les questions de mariage, de divorce, de pension alimentaire, de gestion des biens des orphelins, de testaments, de succession, de tutelle et d'autres matières du Chéri, ainsi que de la surveillance de la gestion des mutévellis des vakoufs et de l'examen de leurs comptes."

Osman Nizamy Pacha ayant déclaré que la délégation ottomane insiste sur cet amendement, *le Président* constate que l'accord n'est pas établi sur la rédaction de l'article 4 et propose de passer à l'article 5.

Osman Nizamy Pacha déclare accepter le premier alinéa de l'article 5, mais ne pouvoir en accepter le second.

Batzaria Effendi expose les raisons qui empêchent la délégation ottomane d'accepter l'exception mentionnée par cet article. La convention en question a été conclue bien avant la guerre entre la Bulgarie et la Turquie et n'a rien à voir avec la guerre actuelle. Quelle relation peut-il y avoir entre une convention toute spéciale et les questions négociées avec le bloc des alliés ? Si l'on désire supprimer la convention, il faudrait procéder comme pour sa conclusion en la dénonçant directement entre les deux parties.

M. Madjarov observe que c'est la délégation ottomane qui a soulevé elle-même cette question par son projet d'article relatif à la juridiction religieuse et que, d'ailleurs, si le rétablissement des conventions en vigueur avant la guerre était indiscutable, il ne serait pas nécessaire d'insérer dans le protocole une clause y relative.

Ahmed Réchid Bey fait observer qu'il existe dans le droit international deux théories. D'après l'une d'elles, les traités conclus avant la guerre sont abrogés et il faut de nouvelles conventions ou une confirmation pour les rétablir. D'après la seconde, la guerre ne fait qu'en suspendre l'effet. Une fois la paix rétablie, les traités regagnent pleinement leur effet. La délégation ottomane veut bien adopter cette seconde théorie, à condition que ses propositions, nullement inacceptables, soient agréées par les délégations des États alliés.

M. Streit fait remarquer que, dans tous les cas, le principe du rétablissement des traités a été reconnu entre les délégations hellénique et ottomane.

Le Président estime qu'on perd de vue ce qui est dit au commencement de l'article 5. Or, pour le reste, Bulgares et Turcs peuvent se réserver de s'entendre ultérieurement.

M. Madjarov consent à signer cet article, sauf instructions, mais en faisant une réserve dans le protocole en ce qui concerne le deuxième alinéa.

Après quelque discussion, la délégation ottomane n'ayant pas admis la réserve bulgare, on passe à l'article 6, qui est accepté.

Osman Nizamy Pacha constate ensuite que le projet des alliés ne fait pas mention de l'arbitrage et déclare y tenir, de même qu'à l'évacuation. Il pense aussi que, étant donné que les questions en discussion sont des mesures exécutoires du traité de paix qui peuvent présenter des difficultés pour certaines parties, il vaudrait mieux que la délégation ottomane traitât ces questions séparément avec chaune des délégations alliées. On pourrait ainsi arriver plus facilement à un résultat.

M. Pavlovitch propose de rédiger un protocole à article unique ainsi conçu : " Toutes les mesures et conventions découlant du traité de paix seront réglées entre les gouvernements."

Osman Nizamy Pacha fait observer qu'il n'existe actuellement pas de relations diplomatiques entre les gouvernements.

Le Président, résumant les débats, dit que l'accord est atteint sur certains articles. Il propose en conséquence que l'on signe un protocole qui engloberait ces articles et que l'on réserve à des négociations séparées entre les gouvernements les questions sur lesquelles l'accord n'a pu s'établir.

Osman Nizamy Pacha déclare que, dans la vue de la délégation ottomane, les propositions des alliés forment un bloc indivisible. Elle ne peut en conséquence accepter la suggestion du Président.

Ahmed Réchid Bey ajoute que, tant que l'article 4 ne sera pas accepté, la délégation ottomane ne peut admettre l'article 5.

Sur la proposition du *Comte de Voïnovitch*, la séance est suspendue à 7 heures 5, en vue de permettre aux délégués de s'entendre.

A la reprise de la séance à 8 heures,

Le Comte de Voïnovitch déclare que, pour aboutir à un résultat pratique et prouver la volonté ainsi que la faculté de la conférence d'atteindre une solution, il propose à la haute assemblée un nouveau texte de protocole dont la teneur est la suivante :

" Article 1er (l'article 2 du projet des alliés).
" Article 2 (l'article 3 du même projet).
" Article 3 (l'article 6 du même projet).
" Article 4. Jusqu'à la conclusion des conventions spéciales prévues par l'article 7 du traité de paix, il est entendu entre les Hautes Parties contractantes que les traités, conventions, et actes conclus avant la déclaration de la guerre entre les États alliés et la Turquie seront remis en vigueur."

M. Pavlovitch remarque que puisque l'article 7 du traité de paix prévoit la conclusion de conventions spéciales, il n'est pas nécessaire de traiter dans un protocole annexe les questions que ces conventions doivent régler. Ne serait-il donc pas suffisant, vu les difficultés qui se sont produites, de prendre seulement une décision dans le sens de cet article et de renvoyer toutes les questions pendantes à des négociations directes entre les gouvernements respectifs ?

M. Popovitch désire attirer l'attention de la conférence sur les considérations suivantes : Les délégations, étant restées à Londres après la conclusion de la paix, ont pris devant l'Europe et les populations des pays qu'elles représentent l'engagement moral d'arriver à une entente qui faciliterait le rétablissement des relations amicales entre les anciens belligérants. Il prie donc la haute assemblée de ne pas se séparer sans avoir fait un dernier effort pour aboutir à un résultat.

Le Comte de Voïnovitch ayant demandé qu'une décision formelle soit prise sur sa proposition et que, au cas où elle serait rejetée, le protocole de la séance en fasse mention, *Osman Nizamy Pacha* déclare de suite ne pouvoir l'accepter.

Batzaria Effendi tient à faire observer que le principe de l'élaboration d'un protocole annexe a été admis à l'unanimité par la conférence. Pour faciliter les travaux de la haute assemblée, la délégation ottomane a soumis aux alliés un projet

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de protocole que ceux-ci n'ont pas accepté et à la place duquel ils ont présenté à la délégation ottomane un contre-projet. Cette délégation, dans un large esprit de conciliation, a accepté presque tous les articles du contre-projet auquel elle n'a demandé à apporter que de légères modifications et précisions. Malheureusement, l'entente n'a pu se produire. Quant au projet du Comte de Voïnovitch, la délégation ottomane ne peut l'accepter parce qu'il est incomplet.

Le Comte de Voïnovitch fait remarquer que les modifications apportées par la délégation ottomane au contre-projet des alliés ne peuvent être considérées comme de légères rectifications, puisque l'adjonction à l'article 4 proposée par cette délégation y introduit des changements radicaux qui bouleversent le contre-projet. Si l'accord ne peut s'établir, la responsabilité en retombe sur la délégation ottomane.

Osman Nizamy Pacha observe que les alliés, eux aussi, ont apporté des modifications à la rédaction primitive de l'article 4 de leur texte, tel qu'il a été communiqué à la délégation ottomane au cours des pourparlers préliminaires.

Le Président fait remarquer que l'amendement à l'article 4 proposé par la délégation ottomane constitue une atteinte aux droits de souveraineté des États alliés, car il demande l'application de la législation ottomane dans les territoires des alliés.

Sur l'observation de plusieurs délégués, *le Président* constate l'absence du délégué bulgare, M. Madjarov, qui, se sentant souffrant, a quitté la salle de la conférence à 8 heures 10. *Le Président* observe que, par suite de ce départ, la continuation de la séance ne serait pas correcte, étant donné que l'un des États intéressés ne s'y trouve plus représenté. Il propose, en conséquence, de lever la séance et de fixer le prochaine réunion au lundi 27 mai (9 juin), à 11 heures du matin.

Cette proposition est adoptée.

Vu l'intention manifestée par quelques-uns des honorables délégués de quitter Londres très prochainement, et dans la crainte que les travaux de la conférence ne prennent fin avec la séance de ce jour, *M. Skouloudis* demande la permission de s'acquitter, en sa qualité de président, d'un devoir auquel s'associeront, il n'en doute point, tous les membres de la haute assemblée. Il désire avant tout soumettre à Sa Majesté le Roi l'hommage de leurs sentiments de profonde et respectueuse reconnaissance de toutes les marques de bienveillance et des attentions gracieuses qu'Elle a daigné leur témoigner. aussi que de l'hospitalité vraiment royale dont ils ont joui dans ce palais historique. Il exprime, d'autre part, la gratitude et les vifs remerciements de la haute assemblée envers Sir E. Grey, l'homme d'État éminent qui a bien voulu accepter la présidence d'honneur de leurs réunions et qui, par son appui éclairé et impartial, a si grandement contribué à l'heureux avènement de la paix. Avant de terminer, *M. Skouloudis* désire également témoigner toute l'appréciation et les remerciements de la conférence du concours intelligent et du zèle efficace qu'a apportés à l'accomplissement de ses travaux le secrétaire, M. Norman, que le Foreign Office a bien voulu adjoindre à l'assemblée.

La séance est levée à 8 heures ½.

Le Président :

ÉTIENNE SKOULOUDIS.

Les Secrétaires :

H. NORMAN.
S. TCHAPRACHIKOV.
H. RIZO-RANGABÉ.
S. Y. GROUITCH.
D. NORADOUNGHIAN.

[26148] No. 72.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 197.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 7, 1913.*

PRIME MINISTER has just called to tell me that he has definitely resigned. He considers that his mission finished at the conclusion of the war.

His Excellency considers that his successor has not yet been decided on, and two days or so may elapse before a decision is come to. His Majesty had been very gracious to him, and had endeavoured to persuade him to continue in office, but in vain.

His Excellency hopes that peace will be maintained, but considers that the situation is serious.

Resignation of the Prime Minister can only be considered as unfavourable to the cause of peace.

(Sent to Constantinople and Belgrade.)

[26152] No. 73.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 8, 1913.*

M. VENIZELOS, who returned from Salonica 6th June, thinks situation extremely critical, especially if Gueshof's resignation is accepted, and he fears that signature of peace with Turkey has made war between the allies almost inevitable. Bulgarian pretensions, although not yet definitely formulated, are inadmissible, including Salonica, Yenidje, Vodena, Florina.

I gather that Greek understanding with Servia is complete.

I told M. Venizelos of proposal for reduction of strength about to be made (see your telegram No. 82 of 6th June). Premising that what he said was not to be taken as official reply, M. Venizelos remarked that it would be very difficult for Greece to dismiss reservists, thousands of whom came from beyond the ocean and could not be recalled, except after a formal undertaking signed by all the allies to accept an award of the Powers respecting partition, and he is aware of all the difficulties of this solution.

King returns to Athens to-morrow for a few days.

[26149] No. 74.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 198.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Sophia, June 8, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 197 of 7th June.

I understand that M. Danef will succeed to Premiership and only minor changes will be made in Ministry. No official decision will, however, be arrived at before to-morrow at the earliest.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[26150] No. 75.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 199. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 8, 1913.*

BULGARIAN troops have occupied the heights between Doiran and Strumnitsa. The Servian Government maintain that this is their territory according to an annexe to the military convention, and have addressed strongly worded note to Bulgarian Government stating that if the troops are not withdrawn within thirty-six hours they will be attacked in full force.

Servian Minister is leaving here quietly to-night for Belgrade with all his family, and if Bulgarian reply to the above-mentioned and to the note referred to in my telegram No. 178 of 25th May are not favourable, he will not return.

Servian policy is to get Russia to inform Bulgaria that she insists on immediate conference, and will, if necessary, intervene by force to prevent war between the allies.

Policy of Bulgaria is to temporise until 18th June, when she will be ready for war against Greece and Servia combined.

(Sent to Constantinople and Belgrade ; repeated to St. Petersburgh, No. 438.)

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[26151] No. 76.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 200.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Sophia, June 8, 1913.*

CONSULAR agent at Rustchuk reports that all the troops recently arrived there from Midia, together with irregulars, are embarking for Widin.

[26231] No. 77.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 54.)
Sir, *Bucharest, May 27, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 50 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to report that at a further meeting of the Conservative party, held on the 23rd instant, M. Carp, former leader of the party, and M. Filipesco, late Minister of Domains in M. Maioresco's Cabinet, made one more effort to induce the party to break away from M. Maioresco and reject the protocol of St. Petersburgh. Unlike the meeting reported in my despatch No. 49 of the 9th instant, the meeting of the 23rd was attended by some of the Conservative members of the Cabinet as well as by many senators and deputies, who were present in order to mark their anxiety to avoid a split in the Conservative party. M. Carp asked the meeting to bind itself to reject the decision of the Ambassadors, but the great majority insisted on retaining their liberty of vote for the impending debates in the Senate and the Chamber. The question was not put to the vote, apparently in the hope that by some means a definite split in the party might be avoided, and it was decided to hold another meeting on the 25th instant. At this meeting, which was very sparsely attended, no Cabinet Minister or Ministerial senators or deputies being present, M. Carp declared that, in view of the divergence of his views from those of the bulk of the party, and having regard to his unwillingness to assume any responsibility for the acceptance of the solution proposed by the Ambassadors at St. Petersburgh, which he considered inconsistent with the country's dignity, he definitely resigned from the leadership of the Conservative party. M. Carp has since publicly announced this decision in an open letter to the president of the Conservative club, begging the president of the club to convoke a meeting of the executive committee of the party to proceed to the election of another leader.

I have, &c.
G. BARCLAY.

[25673] No. 78.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 55.)
Sir, *Bucharest, May 31, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the St. Petersburgh protocol reached the Minister for Foreign Affairs early last week from the Roumanian Minister at St. Petersburgh, and that, in order to give time for its discussion in the Senate and Chamber, Parliament, which was to have risen on the 24th instant, has continued sitting during this week.

The debate on the protocol in the Senate occupied four sittings on the 24th, 26th, 27th, and 28th instant, and resulted, as reported in my telegram No. 70 of the 29th instant, in a practically unanimous vote, empowering the Government to give effect to the Ambassadors' award, the Liberals voting with the Government, though their leader, M. Bratiano, made it clear that this did not imply their approval of the Government policy.

After the debate in the Senate, the protocol was discussed in the Chamber, which has to-day confirmed the Senate's vote, 127 members voting for, and only 17 members voting against, the execution of the protocol.

The debates in both the Senate and the Chamber were held in secret session, but reports of the leading speeches have appeared in the press, and, as M. Maioresco has intimated to some of my colleagues, the "secret" character of the proceedings was not intended to prevent their publication, but only to allow of the Government's repudiating any passages which might be published savouring of indiscretion. I may add

parenthetically that, as regards two or three passages in the speech of M. Maioresco, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Government has availed itself of this faculty.

I do not think I need trouble you with any detailed summary of the debates. Indeed, the most important speech, that of M. Maioresco, was, to judge from the press versions, so disconnected and discursive as hardly to admit of a full and coherent summary, and I think it will be sufficient if I note some of the more striking parts of the debate in the Senate, the debate in the Chamber being of minor interest. This I have done in the accompanying memorandum.

Perhaps the most significant point in the debates is the evidence they have afforded that neither the Government nor the Opposition are really satisfied with the St. Petersburgh award. It is clear that neither party regards the present solution as necessarily final, and in this connection I should mention that I have good reason to believe that both the Servian and Bulgarian Ministers have been feeling the ground, without, I believe, making any definite proposals as to Roumania's attitude in the event of a war between Bulgaria and Servia. I believe that M. Maioresco has so far declined to commit himself, but Roumania is disappointed at not getting more than Silistria by the St. Petersburgh award, and she is in a mood to fish in troubled waters, for which the present phase of Balkan affairs promises an alluring opportunity. Should there be war between Bulgaria and Servia, Roumania will probably seek from Bulgaria some substantial return for her neutrality.

I have, &c.
G. BARCLAY.

Enclosure in No. 78.

M. Maioresco's Speech in the Senate on May 24 and 26, 1913.

M. MAIORESCO vigorously defended the quiescent attitude maintained by Roumania at the beginning of the war as the only right and prudent one. It would have been unnatural for her to side with Turkey against the Christian States, and there was no reason for her to move inasmuch as the declared object of the allies was merely to secure the execution of article 23 of the Treaty of Berlin, and the Powers had declared that the territorial *status quo* should be maintained. Moreover, Russia had made it clear that she could not remain indifferent if Roumania took active measures against Bulgaria. When, however, it was clear that the formula of the *status quo* would not be respected, a change of attitude seemed necessary, but all the Powers exhorted Roumania to peace, and her real interests, which were of course the chief concern of the Cabinet, demanded, in view of the menacing attitude of Russia and of the fact which was known to the Cabinet, that if Roumania attacked Bulgaria Servia was bound to send 150,000 men to the latter's assistance, that Roumania should seek to obtain satisfaction by peaceful means if possible. The Cabinet had reason to hope that these peaceful means would succeed, for they knew that Bulgaria had from the first recognised that Roumania had a good case. They had therefore waited for Bulgaria to make overtures.

M. Maioresco then narrated in great detail the abortive negotiations in London and Sophia, the mediation proposals of the Powers, and the acceptance of the latter by the Cabinet.

In speaking of the mediation, M. Maioresco described the attitude of the several Great Powers towards Roumania, showing that that of the Triple Alliance had throughout been one of strong support. As regards the *Entente* Powers, he said that the attitude of Great Britain had been one of reserve, but added: "Mais vous savez avec combien de modération et de bienveillance elle nous a conseillé de ne pas se lancer dans une guerre." Russia, he said, had changed from her attitude in 1878, and this time had done her utmost in order that Roumania should get what she wanted. As regards France, he reminded the Senate that M. Pichon had said in the French Chamber that he would endeavour through the French Ambassador in St. Petersburgh to reconcile the interests of the two countries, both of which enjoyed French sympathy.

In conclusion, M. Maioresco, after reading the protocol, said that he did not ask for a vote of cofidence or of approval of the Cabinet's policy, but merely for powers to execute the terms of the Ambassador's award, and he pointed out that in return for what Roumania received she undertook no corresponding obligation, "Roumania has her hands free, and can arrange her future as she thinks right."

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M. Bratiano's Speech in the Senate on May 27, 1913.

M. Bratiano severely criticised the Government's policy throughout the Balkan crisis, and especially blamed them for not having mobilised in October (he pointed out that mobilisation need not necessarily have meant going to war) and for having consented to a mediation of the Powers in which Roumania had no part. While belittling the value of Silistria, he said that the Liberals would not refuse to accept it, but this was on the distinct understanding that their vote did not imply their approval of the Government's policy and that Roumania retained her liberty of action. He concluded as follows (I quote from the "Indépendance roumaine," the principal Liberal organ):—

"Le Premier Ministre a dit que la Roumanie suivra la direction que lui indiquera la sagesse nationale. Cette sagesse dit que la nouvelle phase offre de nouvelles possibilités. Nous ne croyons pas, nous autres, que la Roumanie puisse sortir de la situation balkanique avec Silistrie seulement. Il faut que l'issue pour nous soit une participation active à la vie de cette péninsule. La Providence a voulu qu'à deux reprises nous puissions réparer les fautes commises. Le moment est venu pour nous exercer une action rigide."

The Minister of War followed M. Bratiano, emphasising the value of Silistria strategically. He said that the radius of 3 kilometres prescribed by the protocol must, inasmuch as Silistria is a fortified town, count, not from the town itself, but from the surrounding forts.

Both in the Senate and in the Chamber, before the vote was taken, the session was in each case declared public, and M. Bratiano, in public session in the Senate, supplemented his speech by the following declaration:—

"Le parti national-libéral vote la motion proposée pour la mise à exécution du protocol de la conférence des Ambassadeurs de Saint-Pétersbourg, qui redresse en partie une des injustices du passé et confirme nos légitimes liens religieux et culturels avec nos congénères macédo-roumains.

"Nous émettons ce vote parce que les discussions dans les séances secrètes ont établi que les conclusions de la conférence, ne satisfaisant par les justes revendications formulées par nous à la suite des changements territoriaux dans les Balkans, ne peuvent en aucune façon engager l'action du royaume dans la situation actuelle de la péninsule balkanique.

"Notre vote, qui n'implique pas une approbation de la politique du Gouvernement, a le caractère exclusif d'une autorisation pour la mise à exécution des points 1, 2, 3 et 4 du susdit protocole."

[26173] No. 79.

Mr. Crackanthorpe to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June 9.*)

(No. 106.)

Sir, *Belgrade, May 30, 1913.*

I ENQUIRED to-day of the Austrian Minister whether he could throw any light on the statement made by the Prime Minister in his *exposé* on Servian policy to the effect that, in the course of the negotiations respecting Albania, an offer had been made to Servia of the entire valley of the Vardar, together with Salonica, in exchange for her voluntary abandonment of the Adriatic coast.

M. d'Ugron informed me he had never been instructed to make any such offer, officially or unofficially. He was quite unable to account for M. Pashitch's statement. Later in the day I had occasion to see M. Pashitch, who reasserted that such an offer had been made to him, but was reticent as to its source.

I have, &c.

DAYRELL CRACKANTHORPE.

[26244] No. 80.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June 9.*)

(No. 90.)

Sir, *Sophia, May 30, 1913.*

WITH reference to other correspondence relative to the strained relations now existing between this country and Servia, I have the honour to forward herewith copy of an interesting despatch from His Majesty's vice-consul at Varna, reporting the circumstances in which the fresh levy of recruits has taken place there, and the prevailing political feeling and conditions in that district.

I have, &c.

H. O. BAX-IRONSIDE.

Enclosure in No. 80.

Vice-Consul Gilliat-Smith to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 14.)

Sir, *Varna, May 26, 1913.*

IN connection with my telegrams No. 5 (which should have been numbered 7) and No. 8, I have the honour to report that much less enthusiasm was displayed upon the departure last night of the recruits—some of whom were mere boys—than was the case when the first troops left last autumn for the Turkish frontiers. Also the relatives of those leaving showed much more openly signs of grief, and as the train left the station the air was shrill with the wailings of thousands of women, who are to-day wandering about the town crying more quietly.

Great indignation is felt here against Servia, and among many classes still greater anger is felt against Russia.

A local paper, which has sprung up since the beginning of the war, has lately been publishing very violent articles against the Russian Government, and accusing the latter of having prevented Bulgaria from keeping Rodosto, solely with a view to facilitate Russia's designs against Constantinople at some future date. With regard to Servia, local public opinion is not nearly so sanguine as it was when the troops first marched against Turkey. They say that the Servians are good fighters, and that no quarter will be given. I have been among the soldiers at the barracks, and heard their half-hearted jokes about death, also many allusions to the "Servian pigs."

Most people are heartily sick of the war. Of those who are not in the ranks, those who appear to suffer most are the peasant women whose husbands have been away since last October.

A deputation of some 500 Gaganse women, who are Christians, but speak Turkish as their native language, and dress in Turkish bloomers, and who are considered by some to be of Greek origin, made a demonstration in the centre of the town a few days ago, demanding back their husbands now that the war with Turkey is over. By way of answer they were told that many old "shops" from the Sophia district were in the town, and that they could have them if they wanted them. Seven or eight women, presumably ringleaders, were put into prison, and the demonstration was represented as having been got up by the Socialists.

As is perhaps natural, all the information which I am able to gather from Greek sources is invariably most unfavourable to the Bulgarians. The Armenian community has pledged itself to be held responsible for the good behaviour of the Armenian prisoners taken from the Turks, who are allowed to seek work freely in the town on condition that they will not attempt to escape. The Greek community says it cannot give such a pledge in the case of the Greek Ottoman prisoners, who consequently remain shut up, and the reason alleged for withholding such a pledge is that the Bulgarian authorities are only seeking an opportunity to start an anti-Greek campaign in Varna, which would result in the seizure and closure, and subsequent confiscation, of the few churches which still belong to them.

I have, &c.

BERNARD GILLIAT-SMITH.

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[26245] No. 81.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June 9.*)

(No. 91.)
Sir, *Sophia, May 30, 1913.*

ENCLOSED I have the honour to transmit copy of the note which I have received from the Bulgarian Government in reply to the enquiries which I made of them on receipt of your despatch No. 66 of the 13th instant, relative to the alleged confiscation of the property of Moslem refugees from the occupied territories.

It is stated, as you will note, that so far from confiscating the property of such refugees, the Bulgarian authorities are taking steps to preserve, and where necessary administer, it in the interest of the absent owners.

I have had the honour to report briefly the purport of the above by my telegram No. 188 of to-day.

I have, &c.
H. O. BAX-IRONSIDE.

Enclosure in No. 81.

Note verbale communicated to Sir H. Bax-Ironside by Bulgarian Government.

EN réponse à la notice datée du 6 (19) du mois courant concernant les biens meubles et immeubles abandonnés par la population musulmane ayant pris la fuite à la suite de la guerre, le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères a l'honneur de faire savoir à la Légation de Sa Majesté britannique en base des éclaircissements donnés par les départements compétents, ce qui suit :—

Aucun département bulgare n'a jamais donné à qui que ce soit l'ordre de saisir les susdits meubles et immeubles et de les considérer comme des propriétés de l'État bulgare.

Lorsque, au mois de novembre dernier, le Département du Commerce a appris que la population de certaines contrées avait commencé à labourer les terres appartenant à des musulmans en fuite, il a cru même de son devoir de faire tout son possible pour régulariser cet état de choses par la conclusion de baux à ferme en règle avec les laboureurs. Les mesures prises dans cette direction, loin de constituer une violation des droits de propriété de la population musulmane ou d'avoir le caractère d'une saisie-arrêt, ont été, au contraire, ordonnées uniquement dans le but de sauvegarder les intérêts des propriétaires eux-mêmes. Et à ceux d'entre ces derniers qui sont déjà de retour les autorités n'ont pas manqué de restituer sans retard les immeubles après qu'ils ont justifié, bien entendu, les droits de propriété. Ainsi, au courant du mois dernier, deux propriétaires turcs ont été réintégrés par les autorités de l'arrondissement de Shtip dans la possession de leurs "tchiftliks" et deux autres par les autorités de Koukousch. On procède de la même manière partout où la population musulmane commence à rentrer dans ses foyers, en versant aux ayants droit mêmes le montant du fermage payé par les fermiers. Une exception n'est faite qu'en cas d'existence de bail à ferme dont le délai n'est pas encore expiré : dans ces cas les propriétaires ne pourront rentrer dans la possession intégrale de leurs terres qu'après la fin des travaux de la moisson. Cette restriction s'impose en vertu des articles 45 et suivants de la loi sur les contrats et les obligations, l'État agissant dans tous ces cas comme *negotiorum gestor*.

Quant aux biens meubles abandonnés par la population musulmane en fuite, le Département Royal de Finances a donné les ordres nécessaires aux autorités compétentes en vue de les recueiller et les conserver, dans la mesure du possible, jusqu'au retour de leurs propriétaires, à l'exception, bien entendu, de ces meubles qui, de par leur nature, sont sujets à une détérioration : ceux-ci sont vendus aux enchères.

Sophia, le 15 (28) *mai*, 1913.

[26247] No. 82.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June 9.*)

(No. 93.)
Sir, *Sophia, May 31, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith copy of a despatch from the British consular agent at Rustchuk, reporting matters of military interest and the state of feeling prevailing there with regard to the present crisis in the foreign relations of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
H. O. BAX-IRONSIDE.

Enclosure in No. 82.

Mr. Mayer to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 12.)
Sir, *Rustchuk, May 27, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that two ships transporting ammunitions and horses coming from Russia passed through here for Servia.

Great preparations of war are being made against Servia. The 5th and 2nd regiments from town have left for the frontiers. The general opinion which prevails is that the war between the allies is almost unavoidable. Since four to five days the traffic has entirely stopped and the railway authorities don't accept any goods for carriage at all, all the wagons being engaged for military purposes.

The public is very excited on behalf of Russia's attitude, and it is said that, after the hostilities have been settled up, some quite different politics must be taken up, and that the first thing would be to conclude some treaty with the "Triple Alliance."

I had an interview with a Bulgarian deputy to-day who assured me that the Government have not given up their intention of annexing Salonica to the other acquired territory and of making any other sacrifices for reaching this.

I have, &c.
S. MAYER.

[26252] No. 83.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June 9.*)

(No. 98. Confidential.)
Sir, *Sophia, June 4, 1913.*

THE Roumanian Minister in this capital, whose departure I had the honour to announce to you in my telegram No. 76 of the 26th February, has now returned.

Prince Ghika's arrival was somewhat unexpected, and it has therefore caused considerable comment. The Bulgarian Government had taken it for granted that, after the decision come to at St. Petersburgh to cede Silistria to Roumania, Prince Ghika would be transferred to another post, as his presence could not but be disagreeable to the Bulgarian Government, reminding them, as it did, of what they consider to be a diplomatic defeat.

Prince Ghika told me confidentially that he had come to discuss with the Bulgarian Government the details of the cession of Silistria, which he considered would not be easily settled, as the arrangement come to by the Ambassadors was, in the opinion of both the Roumanian and Bulgarian Governments, of somewhat too vague a nature.

This statement is doubtless true, as far as it goes, but there is reason to believe that *pari passu* with the Silistria correspondence the Roumanian and Bulgarian Governments are exchanging views as to their future policy, and that the Austro-Hungarian Legation is privy to the negotiations. There can be no doubt that, in view of the serious tension existing between the allies, Bulgaria is only too anxious at the present time to remain on friendly terms with her northern neighbour. Should hostilities break out between Bulgaria, Servia, and Greece, the participation of Roumania would in all probability turn the scale on either side, and it is realised here that the friendship of Roumania at the present moment is well worth a sacrifice.

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It is for this reason that so little complaint has been made regarding the cession of Silistria.

I shall hope to keep you informed of the progress of these negotiations if they take a concrete form. Meanwhile the Roumanian Minister does not speak in any too friendly terms of Bulgaria, and it may yet happen that he may be transferred and succeeded by a Minister who will be more *persona grata* to the Bulgarian Government.

I have, &c.
H. O. BAX-IRONSIDE.

P.S.—I am sending copy of this despatch to His Majesty's Minister at Bucharest.
H. O. B.-I.

[26253] No. 84.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 9.)

(No. 99.)

Sir, *Sophia, June* 4, 1913.

IN my despatch No. 88 of the 22nd ultimo, I had the honour to report that this capital had been been kept in a state of anxious expectation and suspense regarding the relations of Bulgaria with her allies. This state of suspense continued even after the signature of the preliminaries of peace with Turkey, which event caused little or no excitement at the time.

In the course of a visit which the Prime Minister paid me on the 24th ultimo, his Excellency expressed his fears that if any fresh incidents involving loss of life occurred in the occupied territories, it would be difficult to restrain the Bulgarian troops. M. Gueshof added that, in his opinion, the arrival of the King of Greece at Salonica might even tend to aggravate the situation. Heavy fighting was reported during the 19th, 20th, and 21st ultimo, and His Majesty's consul-general at Salonica stated that the Bulgarians attacked the Greek positions on Mount Pangheion in force.

On the 25th ultimo the Servian Minister handed in a note containing a full recapitulation of the Servian case: it concluded with the proposal that all difficulties existing between the allies should be settled among themselves. It is understood that this action was taken in entire accord with the Greek Government, who not only promised their full co-operation in case of troubles arising, but also gave the Servian Government to understand that they themselves were prepared, if necessary, to maintain a claim to Monastir as against Bulgaria. The main object of both Greece and Servia is to confine Bulgaria to the east of the River Vardar, and free of the Salonica–Uskub Railway, thus giving the two countries a co-terminous frontier. No answer has, as yet, been returned to the Servian note, which has undoubtedly placed the Bulgarian Government in a quandary.

Military activity meanwhile continued throughout the entire country, and there was a constant movement of troops towards the Greek and Servian frontiers. Immense supplies of ammunition, forage, and all species of war material have been ordered; these exceed in amount the orders given in the late war, and have for the most part gone to Germany and Austria.

On the 26th ultimo I had the honour to report that the Bulgarian artillery at Cavalla fired on a Greek cruiser at a distance of 2 miles from the shore. This ship turned out to be the Greek flagship "Averoff," with the Greek admiral on board. She fortunately did not return the fire. The Bulgarian Government have apologised, but the Greek Minister informs me that his Government have demanded the punishment of the chief offenders and that the incident is not closed.

In view of the constant skirmishes between the Greek and Bulgarian armies, it was eventually decided to send General Ivanof to Salonica to endeavour to agree on a neutral zone: the general is now at Salonica on this mission.

The Bulgarian Government decided to invite all the Moslems throughout the Bulgarian territories to enlist, and they consented on condition that they should not be called upon to fight against their co-religionaries. Their number is about 100,000 men.

The general situation on the 27th and 28th ultimo seemed to be very critical, and it was generally anticipated that the allies would drift into war as soon as the preliminary treaty had been signed in London.

The Russian Government intervened, and urged the allied Governments to agree to a meeting in one of the European capitals with a view to a complete

accord. Eventually, as I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 184 of the 28th ultimo, a meeting was arranged in the first instance between the Bulgarian and Servian Prime Ministers to take place at the frontier station. *Pari passu* with the above, the Russian Government invited the allied Governments to a conference at St. Petersburgh, to settle all their differences, adding that, in case of refusal, a heavy responsibility would rest on them. The meeting between MM. Gueshof and Pasitch took place on the 1st instant, and it was eventually agreed that the Prime Ministers of the four allied countries should meet to discuss all the questions affecting the Balkan States. It was decided that the meeting should take place at once in a Balkan town, as it was considered preferable that they should, if possible, arrange their affairs without the intervention of a Great Power. If this procedure should fail, they decided, subject to the concurrence of the Greek Government, to hold a conference at St. Petersburgh.

I gather from M. Gueshof that the meeting passed off in a most friendly manner. It was further suggested that the Greek and Bulgarian Prime Ministers should also hold a preliminary meeting to discuss matters affecting their two countries only. An official communiqué was published stating that the meeting had been decided upon, and a "détente" took place in the situation.

The Bulgarian Government, however, are being severely attacked by other parties for the peaceable disposition they have displayed, and no cessation has taken place in the military preparations. Should M. Gueshof decide to resign, which he will do if he does not receive the full support of the King, there is no guarantee that a new Government will endorse his action.

I have, &c.
H. O. BAX-IRONSIDE.

[26233] No. 85.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 9.)

(No. 57.)

Sir, *Bucharest, June* 5, 1913.

AS I have already had the honour to report by telegraph, the Minister for Foreign Affairs told my Russian colleague yesterday that Roumania would mobilise in the event of war between Bulgaria and Servia. His Excellency added that he was addressing a circular to the Great Powers, in which, while informing them of the recent vote in Parliament in regard to the St. Petersburgh award, he would explain that Roumania could not remain indifferent were war to break out between the allies.

It is evident that Roumania intends this time, should the case arise, to obtain a tangible *quid pro quo* for her neutrality.

I have, &c.
G. BARCLAY.

[26174] No. 86.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 9.)

(No. 111.)

Sir, *Belgrade, June* 5, 1913.

M. POULIEF, the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires, came to see me yesterday afternoon, and as he had just seen Dr. Danef, had had an interview with M. de Hartwig and had likewise just spoken by telephone with M. Toshef, who is in Sophia, the substance of his remarks appears to me worth reporting.

M. Poulief founds no great hopes on the proposed conference of Premiers at Salonica. Bulgaria would not, according to Dr. Danef, be able in any sense to give way to the Servian pretensions, whilst Servia herself seemed determined to insist on a revision of the treaty. The military party in Servia appeared to be gaining power every day, so that even were M. Pashitch to come to realise that the Servian demands are unjustifiable, he would be powerless to desist from them. However, the proposal for a conference was all in favour of Bulgaria, as it gave her more time for bringing up troops.

I suggested that if the conference failed, the possibility remained of mediation and arbitration by Russia, which still afforded a hope of peace, and if in the meanwhile the

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Servian Government could be persuaded to admit the publication of the terms of the treaty, the force of public opinion in Europe might do much to facilitate a solution.

M. Poulief replied that, as I already knew publication of the treaty had been more than once unofficially suggested to the Servian Government and had been strenuously opposed by them, but he further told me that when recently he had advocated this course to M. de Hartwig, the latter asserted with considerable vehemence and evident annoyance that Russia also would never allow it. This M. Poulief construed as a sure sign that Russia, or at any rate the Russian Minister, is backing up Servia.

The proposal made by the "Mir," the Bulgarian Government organ, that the treaty should be published, has, without doubt, been found exceedingly inconvenient and embarrassing by the Servian Government. In order to hide their own reluctance to the publication they have hit upon the expedient of spreading abroad the impression that it is in reality the Bulgarian Government who oppose the publication on account of the existence of a certain clause binding Bulgaria under certain circumstances to take up arms against Austria. This is, of course, more prevarication.

As reported in my telegram No. 134 of the 2nd instant, I saw M. Pashitch immediately after his meeting at the frontier with M. Gueshof. All I was able to extract from him then was that the details of the Serbo-Bulgarian differences had not been discussed, that there was to be a conference of the four Premiers of the allied States at Salonica, and that he was neither optimistic nor pessimistic regarding the result of this conference.

Upon such meagre information it is difficult to form any opinion on the chances of the situation at present. M. Poulief has heard through M. de Hartwig that M. Pashitch was much annoyed by the fact that M. Gueshof was accompanied by M. Toshef and M. Rizof, who never gave him an opportunity of talking alone with M. Gueshof for one moment. He had evidently counted on M. Gueshof's love of peace and on being able to talk him over.

I have, &c.
RALPH PAGET.

[26175] No. 87.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 112.)

Sir, *Belgrade, June 5, 1913.*

IN his despatch No. 106 of the 30th ultimo, Mr. Crackanthorpe has reported a statement made by M. Pashitch in his speech to the Skupshtina to the effect that a certain foreign Power had promised Servia the whole of the valley of the Vardar in return for her renunciation of the Adriatic littoral.

I recently asked M. Pashitch what Power he had referred to, but he replied that he was not at liberty to tell me.

The endeavour has been made to insinuate that the Power in question was Austria, but it is by no means clear to me why, supposing this to be the case, M. Pashitch should hesitate to disclose the fact, seeing that it would quite patently be in the interest of the Servian Government to sow discord between Austria and Bulgaria at the present moment. It is true, as reported in my telegram No. 54 of the 11th November last, that one of the proposals made by Austria as an alternative to a Servian port on the Adriatic was that the monarchy should use its influence with Bulgaria and Greece to obtain for Servia a free outlet on to the Ægean, but this falls very short of M. Pashitch's statement, and I am inclined to think that the same is based on assurances of Russian origin, and that it is for this reason M. Pashitch dare not name the Power which is responsible.

At the time when the Great Powers decided that, in view of Austrian insistence, Servia must retire from the Adriatic if the peace of Europe were to be preserved, M. de Hartwig's position *vis-à-vis* of the Servian Government became somewhat awkward. After having encouraged the Servians in every possible manner to disregard Austrian susceptibilities, and to believe that the Great Powers would never eject them from Albania once they had taken possession, he suddenly found himself confronted by instructions from St. Petersburgh which made it clear that he must put an abrupt end to any aspirations of the kind. From conversations I had with him at the time, I am aware to what extent he resented being forced to this step, and it seems to me more than likely that in order to gild the pill to the Servians, and to save his own position, he may have promised the compensation indicated by M. Pashitch at the

expense of Bulgaria. M. Poulief, substance of my conversation with whom I reported in my immediately preceding despatch, tells me that M. de Hartwig seemed very disinclined to talk on this subject when he mentioned it.

I have, &c.
RALPH PAGET.

[26258] No. 88.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 85.)

Sir, *Vienna, June 6, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a despatch which I have received from the military attaché at His Majesty's embassy, relating to his recent tour in Montenegro, Dalmatia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, and Istria, and the state of affairs in those countries, and to the dismissal of reservists.

I have, &c.
FAIRFAX L. CARTWRIGHT.

Enclosure in No. 88.

Major Sir T. Cuninghame to Sir F. Cartwright.

(No. 32. Treaty.)

Sir, *Vienna, June 5, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of your Excellency that with the exception of the XVth and XVIth Corps in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the units of the Austro-Hungarian army have now been reduced to the ordinary peace footing. In Galicia the increased establishment (150 men) considered necessary for infantry battalions is maintained for the present by calling out reservists and Ersatz reservist for periods of training, pending the introduction and sanction of the new Recruit Contingent Bill which it is understood will be introduced to the two Parliaments in the autumn.

In the XVth and XVIth Corps no reduction in the number of men with units of all arms has been effected, and these remain considerably above war strength. Certain reservists have, however, been replaced by others. The principle of this exchange seems to be to allow those who have been with the colours longest to go home, and in the case of Ersatz reservists those who have relatives dependent on them. Thus at Sarajevo the colonel of a regiment announced that all such men of the years 1906–1909 could go on the 1st June; later years on the 15th June. The exchange of reservists is now for the first time made without resort to secretive methods. Thus the detachment from the Hoch und Deutschmeister regiment (sixty men) marched to the railway station with the regiment band.

As regards the general question whether the state of affairs in Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Dalmatia or in Montenegro is such as to warrant the maintenance of the two corps just referred to at such a high establishment, I have lately returned from an extended tour in Montenegro, Dalmatia, Herzegovina, Bosnia, Croatia, and Istria, and the following remarks may be of interest:—

There is evidence to show that the preparations of the Austrian army to deal with the question of Montenegro were not as complete as is generally believed, and that especially as regards the concentration of the mountain brigades much would have had to be done before anything in the nature of a general advance could have been undertaken.

The actual distribution of the fourteen brigades appears to have been:—

Tuzla, 11th; Foca, 8th; Vizegrad, 7th; Sarajevo, 9th, 10th, 12th; Mostar 1st and 13th; Trebinje, 2nd; Nevesinje, 3rd; Bileca, 6th; Ragusa, 4th; Teodo, 14th and 5th.

From this it will be seen that the brigades in reserve at Sarajevo, Mostar, and Ragusa had not been moved forward to the frontier, and the seven brigades actually in touch with the long hostile frontier line would not have been sufficient to carry out an invasion with chances of decision and without chance of reverse. This and the absence of stores at Ragusa, Castelnuovo, Metkovic, Capljina, Mostar, and Sarajevo,

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and the apparently backward state of the transport department, lends colour to the belief that defensive methods only were intended north of Montenegro, and that the invasion of that country would have been carried out entirely by sea.

There can be no doubt that the invasion of Montenegro from the north and west by land would have been a formidable undertaking in the face of determined resistance. While it is true that the mountain of Lovtchen is too extended and too steep, too easy of defence, the scaling of that pass by untrained and inexperienced troops would have been a dangerous affair, especially when nearing the summit, when the support of the artillery behind became less and less effective. Strictly speaking, the mountain can be scaled anywhere, and the best plan would appear to be to attack it on a wide general front, pushing in the main attack from the west and south-west. Bearing this in mind the fact that no preparations whatever had been made at Cattaro, and no signs of artillery or stores or transport were visible, is not conclusive evidence that the possibility of having to attack the mountain had been dismissed, inasmuch as a better jumping-off place and one less open to the observation of chance travellers would have been at Teodo, where the mass of the troops in this neighbourhood are concentrated.

I was told in Cettinjé that no preparations to defend the mountain had been made whatever, because resistance to Austria was never really contemplated by the King of Montenegro. It is stated that an attempt was made to bring two guns down off the mountain to assist in the bombardment of Scutari, but apparently the operation was impossible, and they were left where they were.

Constant patrolling took place along the frontier by both sides, and "spy mania" by both was at one time a nuisance to people passing through, but by the time I got there all this had passed, the Montenegrins had all gone home, leaving the frontier unwatched.

From what I could discover the feeling in the neighbourhood was very bitter against the Austrians, and that dissension and discontent in the army was rife, much ill-feeling being exhibited against the officers.

Considering the interests involved in the retention of the Gulf of Cattaro and the feeling in that district, it may, perhaps, be said that there is still reason for the retention of considerable forces, although it must be admitted that at present the war fever has completely died out in Montenegro, and that the real chances of aggressive action by that country are remote.

Further north along the line Risano–Trebinje–Bilek and Gacko the same remarks apply with even greater force. The means of communication are so bad, and the objects to be attained by raiding forces if they exist are so remote and intangible, that the danger practically does not exist, and the normal garrisons would appear to be quite sufficient.

Thus it may be said with confidence that the Montenegrins are in no sense a danger to Austria, and that the possibility of aggressive action by them does not warrant the retention of such large forces as are now on the spot; and, consequently, another reason must be sought.

At present the Serb army is fully occupied in preparing for the eventualities latent in the present Bulgar-Serb dispute, which may last for some time, and they cannot at the present be considered as a danger to Austria, and it would appear also that any idea of rallying the Montenegrins and making "irredenta" in the Slav provinces of Austria would require so much time, that the garrisons, if reduced in the meantime to peace strength, could be reinforced again before the danger became acute. Apart from other disadvantages there would appear to be a distinct loss of moral strength in maintaining forces at stations so far in rear as Mostar and Sarajevo with the only possible enemy not nearer than Monastir.

For the inhabitants of Herzegovina and Bosnia, as far as I have been able to discover by questioning officers and officials and from my own observation, are perfectly quiet. They are quite reconciled to the idea of being Austrian, and fully alive to the benefits which they have secured owing to Austrian administration. There is a certain amount of political agitation, which has a slight sympathetic reaction among the people, but the tales of general discontent, of executions of Serb sympathisers, seem to me to be incorrect, or at least much exaggerated. At any rate the population is divided into three distinct groups, represented by the Catholics, Orthodox, and Mussulman elements respectively, and the danger of combined hostile action is remote. The Austrians have, moreover, reduced this still further by calling up all the able-bodied men in the provinces to service. According to local information the infantry battalions of the Bosnian regiments are 2,000 men strong each. In addition, all units have formed

small detachments of Bosnians as working parties. Further, the affiliated battalions in Vienna, Graz, Budapest, Trieste, and Bruck are also maintained at a high establishment, so that it is reckoned that more than 17,000 Bosnians are actually with the colours now. The object of this arrangement is to denude the country districts of the flower of the fighting men, and the general principle appears to be to retain the Mussulman and Catholic element in the provinces, and to send the Orthodox element to the inland stations.

Great trouble has been taken with the fortification of Sarajevo, *réduits* into which the European element can retire in case of necessity have been provided and armed, and this itself, combined with the silly stories among officers' wives and other women in the town, about bands of Serbs, Montenegrins, and Bosniacs rushing the town and cutting everybody's throat in the night, does not add to the sense of security which a garrison of nearly 30,000 men might reasonably be expected to afford. The fact is, that the Austrian civil population is in a very jumpy state, and with very little reason, and that this in a measure accounts for the rumours of disturbance which have been so prevalent in Vienna and in the Austrian press.

In Croatia the same quiet exists among the ordinary population, and the manifestations of sympathy with the Balkan States have been confined to political organisations and to reservists called to service. There seems to be a certain amount of truth in the rumours concerning a rebellion in the 70th Regiment. But at present all is perfectly quiet, and the garrisons are maintained at normal establishment. I was told by a prominent Pan-Serb sympathiser that the chances for that extravagant policy were now considered very poor. The action of Servia in making bad blood between herself and Bulgaria, and the general feeling among the Serbs that Russia had to a great extent left them in the lurch, combined also with the failure of Servia to secure an exit to the sea, and by doing so to accelerate her eventual union with Montenegro, had taken a great deal of heart out of the pro-Serb propaganda, and that, in his opinion, it now depended whether the Slav element of Austria would receive attention and consideration from the Dual Monarchy, and especially if an end were made to the Hungarian oppression of Croatia. The idea of a Pro-Serb province or group of provinces, administered from Belgrade, and independent of Austria, which became prominent at the time of the early successes of the Servians, had now been relegated to the background, and the policy of the Slav peoples of Austria would be confined to attempts to win some better means of recognition than they at present possessed, and one more representative of Southern Slav feeling, but always under the Hapsburg dynasty. Whether this would take the form of a demand for general federation, or whether, as a beginning, the malcontents would be satisfied with some form of compromise, such as that policy known by the name of "trialism," my informant did not know. What appealed to him was the certainty that the Emperor would have neither one nor the other while he lived, and he seemed to think that thereby the wider hopes of the Pro-Serbs might again revive, if Austria remained obdurate, and make no attempt to placate the Austrian and Hungarian Slavs.

In Croatia, then, political activity seems to be marking time, until the fate of Dr. Lukacks and the present Hungarian Administration in Budapest is settled, and there seems to be a general recognition, even among the Magyars, that something must be done for Croatia.

While this is the view of a man considered capable, and who has had considerable experience of Southern Slav problems, it is scarcely to be expected that the responsible army authorities will take so optimistic a view, or that they will consider the aspirations of Servia and the chances of effective sympathy inside the monarchy as no longer a danger. But it does seem to indicate that the danger of spontaneous internal risings is past.

Generally speaking, then, there would appear to be universal approval and relief at the dismissal of the reservists throughout Austria-Hungary, tempered only by regret that the same procedure has not been followed in the case of the XVth and XVIth Corps. Only a few extremists now favour persistence in a threatening attitude, and the efforts of the chief of the general staff, Baron Conrad von Hotzendorf to keep troops at extraordinary establishments in case of eventualities in the annexed provinces find fewer and fewer supporters as the real state of affairs becomes recognised.

With him, no doubt the danger of being compelled to remobilise immediately after demobilising must have force, and would, no doubt, incline him to act with more circumspection than the impatience of the ordinary man in the street will give credit for. The policy, however, that involves the replacement of reservists sent home from the annexed provinces by others called out in times of complete quiet, is causing much

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irritation, and, as is usual on such occasions, people do not hesitate to attribute to the nominal head of the army a desire for military adventures for personal benefit, and it so occurs that at the present moment a combination of circumstances have shaken the popularity of Baron Conrad, and faith in his ability, to a considerable extent. He was roundly blamed at the time of the dismissal of the Russian military attaché, the name of his son being mentioned in the affair, and the habit of the general himself in discussing confidential matters openly being adversely criticised. The affair of the chief of the general staff of the VIIIth Corps in Prague—Colonel Albert Redl—who was lately discovered to be a Russian spy, and who committed suicide before arrest, has increased this vague feeling of resentment against the chief of the staff, although in this case somewhat unjustly, as the appointment of this individual was previous to the appointment of General Conrad himself. But it appears that Colonel Redl was invited to commit suicide, and, generally, that an unsuccessful attempt was made to hush the matter up—the result being worse than ever—and that the matter was generally bungled. Moreover, there is a feeling that the methods of appointing officers to important posts on the general staff require revision. All of this is laid at the door of Baron Conrad, and there is no doubt that, for the second time, he offered his resignation to the Emperor.

There is, moreover, a feeling that, in heading a movement in opposition to the views of Count Berchtold, and in advocating an aggressive policy while the responsible policy, as controlled by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, remained nominally pacific. Baron Conrad did much to deprive the policy of Austria of dignity and effect, and, however much his own actions may have been confined to a desire to rectify omissions in the state of the army, and to make it ready as soon as was possible, for any emergency that might arise at short notice, the measures that were advocated by him were exploited by others less scrupulous, whose aims were frankly adventurous, and the result of their activities is a crop of hatred from those they threatened, and no certainty of corresponding respect.

The truth is that neither Russia nor Servia took notice of the great parade of force by Austria, and the attitude of Montenegro is slowly becoming recognised, and there is an uncomfortable feeling about that the country has been placed in rather an absurd position, and that, from the point of view of a possible enemy, effective action was not to be expected from an administration which gave evidence of lack of consistency. In looking for a scapegoat, it appears at the moment as if the choice will fall upon the chief of the general staff, and it is unfortunate that the press has given prominence to a disparaging comment upon his attainments by Colonel Redl, who described him as an "able tactician" but "no judge of men" ("kein Menschenkenner"), an unkind summary felt at the moment to be apt.

The relations of the chief of the general staff and of the Minister for Foreign Affairs have not been cordial lately, and, if the result of the present apprehension is to make the individuality of the former less embarrassing to the latter, it will be to the advantage of the chances of general peace.

I have, &c.
T. M. CUNINGHAME, *Military Attaché.*

[26445] No. 89.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 9.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, June 7, 1913.*

IN reply to your letter of the 14th ultimo, relative to the possible substitution of another base for the Golden Horn as headquarters of the Turkish fleet, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will inform the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that, as by the treaty of peace recently signed, Turkey retains control of the sea of Marmora, it appears that the best position for the principal Turkish naval base is in that sea, either at Constantinople or Ismid.

2. Should Turkey suffer a further diminution of her European territory, and the passage of the Dardanelles depend on the good-will of another power, the Turkish fleet would undoubtedly be better outside the sea of Marmora than within. For the defence of Turkish interests in the Ægean the best headquarter base would then be Smyrna. Marmarice is not sufficiently central for the purpose, though it has a magnificent harbour, and would form an admirable secondary base. In these remarks it is assumed

that it will be out of the question for Turkey to attempt in future to rival the Russian Black Sea fleet.

3. As regards the Rhodes-Marmarice cable, it does not appear to my Lords that there is any pressing necessity for its re-connection, unless it is of a commercial nature, in which case, as Sir E. Grey points out, the work will no doubt be carried out by the Eastern Telegraph Company of their own accord.

I am, &c.
O. MURRAY.

[26468] No. 90.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 201.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 9, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 198 of 8th June.

Ministerial crisis continues. Great efforts are being made both by the King and the Prime Minister's party to persuade him to retain office, so far without success. The persuasion brought to bear on him by his late colleagues is, however, causing him to weaken.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[26461] No. 91.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 9, 1913.*

SERVIA and Bulgaria.

Sophia telegram No. 199 of 8th June.

Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs mentioned to me circumstances at Doiran, but did not say ultimatum had been sent to Bulgaria. He seems, on the contrary, to fear that Bulgarians are preparing to attack.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[26171] No. 92.

Sir Edward Grey to Count de Salis.

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 9, 1913.*

FOLLOWING sent to Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney, 7th June:—

"His Majesty's Government have decided to replace the seamen and marines landed from your command for service at Scutari by a like number of infantry drawn from the garrison of Malta. These will be conveyed in 'Black Prince' at once. His Majesty's Government and those of the Powers attach importance to your continuing in your present important international office."

[26533] No. 93.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. O'Beirne.

(No. 443.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 9, 1913.*

THE news from the Balkan States is very ominous, and I should like to have views of Minister for Foreign Affairs as to what is to be done if war breaks out between Bulgaria, Greece, and Servia.

The question of a settlement between these three States has hitherto been left entirely to Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and I do not wish to disturb this arrangement, but, if circumstances force the question of war between the allies upon the consideration of the Powers, I want to know what line Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs will take as to action by the Powers.

I would gladly see any action taken by the Powers to preserve peace, but it does

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not seem possible that all the Powers would agree to act together with sufficient energy to impose peace by force; indeed, it is only Russia and Austria who would act thus effectively, and, failing such action, I suppose a policy of non-interference is the only possible subject of international agreement.

(Repeated to Paris, No. 224.)

[26533] No. 94.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 225.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 9, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 443 of to-day to St. Petersburgh.

You should inform Minister for Foreign Affairs.

[23873] No. 95.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 83.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 9, 1913.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 85 of the 21st ultimo, relative to the prevention by the Bulgarian Government of the sale of cigarette papers imported by a British company into the occupied territories.

I approve your action in the matter and the terms of the note which you addressed to the Bulgarian Government on the subject.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[26812] No. 96.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.**

(No. 121.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 9, 1913.*

AT the *réunion* with the Ambassadors to-day the following resolution was adopted:—

"L'Ambassadeur de France ayant proposé de discuter la déclaration à faire au Gouvernement serbe relativement au chemin de fer international, Sir E. Grey dit qu'il est nécessaire de confirmer la déclaration adoptée le 17 décembre dernier, et que c'est une question de bonne foi pour les Puissances.

"L'Ambassadeur d'Autriche-Hongrie dit qu'il est nécessaire d'obtenir des éclaircissements sur certains points qui n'ont pas été définis dans cette déclaration.

"Après une courte discussion, Sir E. Grey suggère que le Gouvernement austro-hongrois pourrait dire qu'en adhérant au renouvellement de la déclaration il désire qu'il soit entendu que dans le cas d'une guerre entre la Serbie et l'Autriche-Hongrie cette dernière Puissance aura le droit d'empêcher par ses forces navales l'importation des munitions de guerre par le port neutre.

"L'Ambassadeur d'Autriche-Hongrie annonce qu'il transmettra à son Gouvernement cette suggestion, et dit que, d'après ses instructions, il appartiendrait à la réunion des Ambassadeurs de se prononcer sur les points visés dans les échanges de vues entre le Gouvernement russe et le Gouvernement austro-hongrois, dont la teneur sera communiquée à la réunion, et sur l'interprétation qu'il convient de leur donner.

"L'Ambassadeur de Russie déclare que son Gouvernement est également d'avis de consulter la réunion sur certains points.

"Il est entendu que le Comte Mensdorff et le Comte Benckendorff feront connaître le plus tôt possible à Sir E. Grey et à leurs collègues les différents points qui peuvent donner lieu à une discussion.

"Sir E. Grey fait observer qu'en tout cas la notification au Gouvernement serbe ne peut dépendre de l'accord sur les quelques points qui ne sont pas encore éclaircis."

* Also to Sir F. Bertie (No. 361), Sir E. Goschen (No. 182), Sir R. Rodd (No. 152), and Mr. O'Beirne (No. 218).

At the conclusion of the meeting, I said that it was essential to make some progress and to become more definite about the southern frontier of Albania and the Ægean islands. How soon this could be done depended upon whether the Ambassadors received instructions sufficient to enable progress to be made.

The Austrian and Italian Ambassadors said that they were ready.

It was agreed to have the next meeting of the *réunion* on Wednesday, the 11th instant.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[26930] No. 97.

Conférence de Saint-James.

PROTOCOLE No. 15.

Séance du 27 mai (9 juin) 1913.

Étaient présents:

Pour la Bulgarie:

M. Madjarov;

Pour la Grèce:

MM. Skouloudis, Gennadius et Streit;

Pour le Monténégro:

M. le Comte de Voïnovitch;

Pour la Serbie:

M. Pavlovitch;

Pour la Turquie:

Osman Nizamy Pacha, Batzaria Effendi et Ahmed Réchid Bey.

La séance est ouverte à 11 heures ½, sous la présidence du Comte de Voïnovitch.

Le protocole de la séance précédente, lu par le secrétaire, M. Rizo-Rangabé, est adopté.

Le Président constate l'absence de M. Popovitch, délégué du Monténégro, et de MM. Novakovitch et Nikolitch, délégués de la Serbie, obligés tous les trois de quitter Londres. Il fait ressortir que, cependant, toutes les délégations étant représentées, la séance est régulièrement constituée et les décisions qui y seront prises seront valables.

Il donne ensuite la parole à *M. Pavlovitch*, qui fait observer que, des difficultés s'étant présentées en ce qui concerne le règlement par la conférence des questions dont la solution doit compléter le traité de paix, il convient:

1° de proposer aux gouvernements respectifs de conclure entre eux des accords séparés en vue de compléter ce traité, et

2° de clôturer le jour même les séances de la conférence.

Osman Nizamy Pacha demande si toutes les délégations alliées sont d'accord pour accepter cette proposition ou si elle émane de la seule délégation serbe.

Ahmed Réchid Bey fait remarquer que, à la séance précédente, Osman Nizamy Pacha a demandé à trois reprises si chacune des délégations alliées est prête à négocier

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séparément avec la délégation ottomane et que cette question n'a point reçu de réponse définitive.

Le Président suspend la séance à midi pour permettre aux délégués de s'entendre sur la question à résoudre.

A la reprise de la séance à midi 10,

Le Président annonce que les délégués des alliés adoptent à l'unanimité la proposition de M. Pavlovitch.

M. Pavlovitch alors donne lecture de sa proposition dont la rédaction a été quelque peu modifiée par suite d'un commun accord entre les délégations alliées :

"En poursuivant l'exécution en commun de l'article 7 du traité de paix du 17 (30) mai 1913, les délégués des pays représentés à la conférence ont reconnu que l'on arriverait plus facilement à un résultat définitif si le traité de paix était complété par des actes séparément conclus entre les gouvernements respectifs, et, par conséquent, ils ont décidé :

1° "de laisser à leurs gouvernements respectifs le soin de procéder séparément à la conclusion de ces actes entre eux, et

2° "de clôturer aujourd'hui les séances de la conférence."

Osman Nizamy Pacha, au nom de la délégation ottomane, déclare se rallier à cette proposition, qui, en conséquence, est adoptée par la conférence. Il fait observer ensuite que s'il y a eu des déclarations ou acceptations de quelques articles au cours des séances, toutes ces déclarations étaient conditionnelles, c'est-à-dire, reliées directement à la signature d'un protocole contenant tous les articles mis en discussion.

Comme la réunion n'a pas pu arriver à la rédaction et à la signature d'un pareil protocole, les déclarations faites doivent être considérées comme nulles et non avenues.

M. Madjarov déclare, de son côté, que la même réserve s'applique aux déclarations qui ont pu être faites au nom de la délégation bulgare.

M. Skouloudis rappelle que c'est après entente avec la délégation ottomane sur la remise en vigueur des traités, actes et conventions antérieurs à la guerre que les délégués hellènes ont signé le traité de paix et il exprime le désir de voir insérer cette déclaration au protocole de la séance.

M. Streit s'associe à la déclaration de M. Madjarov, qui s'applique à la délégation hellénique ainsi qu'à toutes les délégations alliées.

Le Président, avant de clore les débats de la conférence, prononce les paroles suivantes :

"Messieurs,

"Que notre première et dernière pensée soit adressée à l'auguste et glorieux Souverain de ce grand pays, qui a daigné protéger notre conférence et nous accorder dans Sa capitale une si large et si royale hospitalité.

"Nous adressons, en même temps, nos plus vifs remerciements à son Excellence Sir E. Grey, l'illustre homme d'État qui a tant contribué à la conclusion de la paix et qui nous a honoré de ses précieux conseils.

"Je renouvelle les remerciements adressés hier par M. Skouloudis à M. Norman. Son zèle intelligent a imprimé un mouvement d'ensemble aux travaux de notre secrétariat, dont les membres, par leurs efforts consciencieux et dévoués, ont grandement facilité notre tâche. Nous serions des ingrats si nous oubliions M. Armytage, dont l'exquise amabilité nous a rendu si agréable le séjour dans ce palais historique.

"Permettez-moi, Messieurs, avant de nous séparer, de rendre un acte d'hommage et d'émettre en même temps un vœu sincère. Invoquons le Tout-Puissant afin que, avec son aide et s'inspirant de l'exemple de la fière, noble et laborieuse nation anglaise, les ennemis de la veille, désormais tous amis, après tant de ruine et de sang, s'acheminent ensemble sur la route royale de la paix et de la civilisation.

"Messieurs, la séance est levée et, en déclarant clôturée la conférence de Saint-James, je vous prie tous de vous unir à moi en criant : 'Vive Sa Majesté le Roi Georges V!'"

Tous les délégués s'associent aux paroles du Président.

M. Skouloudis propose de confirmer séance tenante le protocole de la séance et, cette proposition ayant été agréée, le protocole, lu par le secrétaire, M. Grouitch, est adopté.

La séance est levée et la conférence close à midi ½.

Le Président :
L. DE VOINOVICH.

Les Secrétaires :
H. NORMAN.
S. TCHAPRACHIKOV.
H. RIZO-RANGABÉ.
S. Y. GROUITCH.
D. NORADOUNGHIAN.

[26171] No. 98.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received June 9.*)

(Confidential.) *Admiralty, June 7, 1913.*

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of telegrams from the Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean, relative to the employment of a military instead of the naval force at present in Scutari, and from the Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Burney.

I am, &c.
W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 98.

Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *June 7, 1913.*

GOVERNOR of Malta has received definite orders to send 300 men for garrison of Scutari as soon as possible and to make arrangements with me as required. "Black Prince" will leave this forenoon with these men and with details for garrison, and should arrive about noon to-morrow.

Enclosure 2 in No. 98.

Admiralty to Vice-Admiral, Mediterranean.

(Telegraphic.) *June 7, 1913.*

DECIDED by His Majesty's Government that seamen and marines landed from your command for service in Scutari are now to be relieved by like number of infantry from garrison at Malta.

"Black Prince" is about to sail with reliefs.

Your continued presence in your important international position is desired by His Majesty's Government and by the Great Powers. Third battle squadron has to return to England, and "King Edward VII" must be sent to Malta once the naval detachment has re-embarked.

You should then shift your flag to "Dartmouth," and when she is relieved by a ship of the Mediterranean fleet, shift it again to the latter.

You are hereby appointed temporary second in command of the Mediterranean fleet, in which position you will continue to receive your present emoluments.

Rear-Admiral Thursby will take the third battle squadron from Malta to Gibraltar, and your successor, Rear-Admiral Bayly, will be directed to take command of the squadron at the latter port.

You should make arrangements as to the disposal of your private gear with Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean. Please report what staff and retinue and special ratings you desire to retain.

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[26589] No. 99.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received June* 10.)

Sir, *Admiralty, June* 7, 1913.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter, dated the 22nd ultimo, which has been received through the Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean, from the commanding officer, H.M.S. "Gloucester," respecting affairs at Smyrna.

I am, &c.
O. MURRAY.

Enclosure in No. 99.

Captain Leatham to Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean.

H.M.S. "Gloucester," Smyrna,
(Extract.) *May* 22, 1913.

IN continuation of my letter of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report that all is quiet at Smyrna and the health of the town remains normal, there being no epidemic in spite of the number of refugees in the place, who are said to amount to 100,000. Many more are expected from Europe, and the arrangements for sending them up country and distributing them throughout Asia Minor are complete in theory, but not put into practice.

2. The neighbourhood, too, is full of troops, many wounded, most of them unpaid, and with practically no officers to look after them. But, in spite of this, they are at present causing no disturbance, and there does not seem to be the slightest ill-feeling between the Turks and the number of Greek inhabitants here.

3. On the morning after my arrival, the 15th May, I accompanied the consul-general to call on the vali and the general commanding the forces.

4. At 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 17th instant, the French cruiser "Bruix" arrived and anchored. The "Kortenaer" (Dutch) and the Turkish men-of-war "Mouini-Zafir" (flying commodore's flag), "Izzedin," "Tinsah," and "Yunnus" are in the port.

5. At about 3·30 P.M. yesterday the French mail steamer "Senegal" was leaving the harbour for Constantinople, and, when about 180 yards short of the two red buoys temporarily laid to mark the channel off Fort Yeni Kale, she struck a mine, and, being badly holed, was run on shore on the west side of the spit on which the fort is built. The explosion was not heard on board, but she was observed to have run on shore and to be down by the bows. The steamboat was sent down with a lieutenant and the staff-surgeon to find out the details and offer any assistance required, the same being offered to the captain of the "Bruix."

The passengers were removed by tugs last night, and at daylight to-day the "Bruix" anchored off the wreck and lighters were sent out to lighten the vessel. I have since had a message from Captain Delage, saying that he has all he requires at present in the way of divers and gear, and that he would rather I remained for the present in the harbour, so that I can receive wireless messages from him and pass them to the French consulate. He says there is a hole 4 by 7 metres, and that there is much water in the fore part of the ship. It is proposed to attempt to cover this hole with wood and canvas, material and workmen being drawn from Smyrna.

Four lives are known to have been lost, one being a seaman from the "Bruix," who was taking passage to another ship, but whose body has not been recovered owing to the flooded compartments being still inaccessible. For the same reason it is not certain that there may not have been other lives lost.

I have expressed a wish to send a funeral party if a naval funeral takes place.

The mine, if struck in the position stated, must be one that had broken adrift from its moorings. This, I believe, is the third vessel that has been blown up since the mines were laid down.

[26576] No. 100.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received June* 10.)

Sir, *Admiralty, June* 9, 1913.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a report from Vice-Admiral Burney, dated the 5th instant, respecting affairs in Scutari.

I am, &c.
W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Enclosure in No. 100.

Vice-Admiral Burney to Admiralty.

Sir, *Scutari, June* 5, 1913.

IN continuation of my letter of the 26th May, 1913, on the occupation of Scutari by the international force, be pleased to lay before their Lordships the following further report:—

2. The Montenegrin troops who had been employed removing the war material in the town ceased that work on the 31st May. There is still a certain amount of small-arm ammunition left but in order to keep his word that the troops would be clear after the 31st May, the Montenegrin commanding officer is employing local labour for the removal of this gear. Two officers have been sent from Cettinjé to supervise the contractors.

3. The removal of the material from Tarabosch should be completed by the end of this week.

4. With reference to Admiralty telegram of the 26th May, on account of the excellent way that the Montenegrins had behaved, and as the charge of dilatoriness brought against them was without foundation in fact, I considered it desirable to bring the substance of the telegram to the notice of the commission, and they at once expressed the opinion that the Montenegrins had worked very well. I may mention that the Austrian Admiral was the first to express this view in his most emphatic manner. However, in order that the commission should have the fullest information on the subject, I called before them the two officers who have been specially charged with the duty of supervising the work of the Montenegrin troops on behalf of the commission, Captain Heaton-Ellis and the Italian Commander Ciano. Having heard these officers' statements the commission requested that a telegram should be sent to London for the Ambassadar's Conference in the terms of my No. 84, which was accordingly done.

5. It is not for me to say from what source in Scutari the statement of the Austrian Ambassador originated, but the very large number of complaints against the Montenegrins which I have received from the Archbishop, some personally, others through the Austrian Consul-General, and some through the Austrian Admiral, indicate the source in the antipathy of the Catholic to the Orthodox faith. All these complaints have been found, on investigation, to be either absolutely without foundation, or else grossly exaggerated.

6. One complaint made was that the custom-house at Oboti was being destroyed by the Montenegrins. Oboti is the summer port of Scutari, about 7 miles down the river. The report was so circumstantial that I telegraphed to the British Minister at Cettinjé to request the Montenegrin Government to give orders for the destruction to be stopped. The Government ordered the officer in command at Scutari to proceed to Oboti and investigate the complaint. No attempt had been made to touch the Oboti custom-house, nor was such an attempt contemplated. The house had already received a certain amount of damage during the war.

7. Another case which I personally investigated was with regard to a monastery at Shirocco, a village at the foot of the Tarabosch Hill, about 4 miles from Scutari. The Austrian Admiral informed me that he had been told that the Montenegrins had taken possession of the monastery and were living there, so that the nuns, who were at Scutari, could not return to their home. I went to Shirocco and found that the

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monastery was entirely divested of furniture, and was occupied solely by a French nurse, who was employed by the Montenegrin Red Cross Society. She had furnished one room with her small necessaries. In an annex (but not in the building itself) there were a few beds for sick, but they were not occupied. The Montenegrin camp was more than a mile away in the position arranged by the convention. I asked the chiefs of the village if they had any complaints to make, but they had none. I ascertained that between twenty and thirty Albanians from the village were daily supplied with medicines by the French nurse. The lady stated that she was perfectly prepared to leave and would go under canvas. She had heard nothing about the nuns wishing to return to their home. I informed the Austrian Admiral of the result of my investigations.

8. Complaints have been made with reference to the presence of Servian troops at Orosh and Mihaina. I therefore took advantage of the presence of a Servian major in the town from this district to question him as to why the Servians had troops there, as General Bojovitch stated that when the Servians left Durazzo and San Giovanni di Medua, they had entirely evacuated Albania. The officer explained that as the frontier of Albania had not yet been delimited they held the position from Orosh to Prizrend. Personally, I regard it as extremely improbable that the Servian frontier would come as far west as Orosh, and think that the Servians are now occupying territory considerably beyond their boundary. Their presence causes uneasiness in the district, which is mainly Catholic.

9. Considerable progress has been made in local administration.

(1.) Two judicial Courts have been instituted, one lower, under a French commander who has had five years' judicial experience, and an upper Court, under an English captain (Captain Heaton-Ellis) and an Austrian and an Italian commander.

(2.) A conciliation Court has been established to deal with the numerous civil cases, under the presidency of an Albanian who for ten years was a civil judge under the Turkish rule. He is assisted by a Mussulman and a Christian.

(3.) Sixty petrol lamps of high power have been purchased at a cost of 1,200*l.* to light the town.

(4.) Most of the inhabitants have now been vaccinated.

(5.) A harbour-master and an assistant have been appointed and taken up their duties. An Austrian officer was selected for the post of harbour-master, and a local steamship agent accepted the post of assistant harbour-master.

(6.) The prison has been cleaned and refurnished, and I regret to say has now several occupants convicted of minor crime.

(7.) A tariff has been fixed for the hire of carriages and pack horses, also for boats and transport by water.

(8.) The religious Court has been re-established for the benefit of Mussulmans.

(9.) The rate of exchange of the various moneys in circulation in the town has been settled.

(10.) An engineer has been appointed to report on the improvements necessary to the bridges and waterways in the town.

10. A very large number of minor details of administration are now referred to the commission which it is hoped will be dealt with in time by the municipal council. The readjustment on proper business lines of the Turkish methods in the Customs has occupied a considerable portion of the time of the commission.

11. I have the most optimistic views with regard to the finances of Scutari. At first the customs dues were very slow in materialising, only £T. 276 being taken from the 15th to the 31st May, but during the last two days an average of £T. 110 a-day has been taken, and it is expected that this flourishing state of trade will be maintained as long as peace reigns in the district, and the inhabitants have confidence in the administration. The expenditure to date has been £T. 608 on municipal work, wages, furniture for the prison and offices (custom-house and harbour-master), and also in meat for the Turkish soldiers. I am hopeful that soon after the sixty lamps for lighting purposes are received, which should be this week, sufficient money will be forthcoming to cover their cost without drawing on the 1,000*l.* which I arranged to be lent from the Ottoman Bank.

12. The Mussulmans were at first very doubtful as to how they would fare under the new administration and whether their religion would be supported. As the adherents to this faith form two-thirds of the population of the town, it is very necessary that their wants should be attended to and their customs respected. I have therefore

given orders in the name of the commission for the payments to the muderiss (teachers of the Koran in the mosques) to be continued, and the salary for the mufti (the chief Mussulman priest) to be slightly increased. The payment to the Mussulman priest of the village of Shirocco has also been continued. The result has been that the Mussulman population are now entirely satisfied and also extremely grateful for what has been done for them.

13. The Austro-Italie Society who are now supplying food to the destitute towns-people and villagers, stated that they could not continue the supply of meat to the Turkish soldiers. The commission therefore decided to continue the supply as an act of grace to these unfortunate people, the remainder of whom will shortly be sent to Constantinople. The cost up to the present has been only £T. 48. Arrangements have also been made with the society to supply food only to women and children and incapacitated men, as a large number of men will not work whilst they can get their food for nothing.

14. As I have previously reported the barracks in the town were in a most deplorable condition when the international force arrived. The portion which has been occupied has been made temporarily inhabitable for the summer, but a considerable amount of repair work is necessary to put the building in proper order. Practically all the windows are broken, and in most cases the frames are missing. The doors have all been removed and the greater part of the flooring on the ground floor has been taken for firewood. I have directed the engineer attached to the commission to prepare estimates for putting the whole building in good order, including the officers' quarters, and I propose, if funds are available, that the town should pay for these repairs, which will be commenced as soon as possible, in order that suitable accommodation may be available for any force sent to relieve the present one, and also for occupation during the winter months.

15. The question of the opening of the Government schools in Scutari is a most difficult one. Formerly Turkish was the principal language and now of course Albanese will replace it. In many cases the Mussulman teachers do not know Albanese sufficiently well to teach in that language, and some of them are now learning. The Austrian and Italian church schools here cater for the greater portion of the Christian population, but the Mussulmans must be considered, and it is hoped that in a short time a sufficient number of teachers will be available to reopen some, at least, of the ordinary schools, most of which will require refurnishing.

16. On Saturday, 31st May, about 740 of the Turkish convalescents left Scutari, 662 embarking at the river mouth in two Italian transports for Constantinople and the remainder proceeding to their homes at Durazzo in an Italian destroyer. The Austrians are providing transports for the officers, officials and their families. At present these are awaiting the arrival of the two officials, sent by the Ottoman Government with money for their payment and for their repatriation. I have telegraphed to Constantinople requesting that the arrival of these officials may be expedited, as the officers, &c., concerned are being supported by the town and these gratuitous supplies are becoming exhausted.

17. I have received their Lordships' reply as regards the money for charitable purposes and I sincerely hope that an amount may be soon forthcoming, as the distress is very great not only in Scutari but in the surrounding villages, and immediate relief is really necessary.

18. I understand that the Turkish troops at San Giovanni di Medua, and Durazzo are still awaiting transports for their repatriation. It is now over a month since the Ottoman Government asserted that these transports would be sent, but nothing has apparently been done.

19. On the 3rd June, His Majesty's Birthday, a small review was held in the barrack square. All the other foreign nations expressed a wish to participate. The detachments were drawn up to form three sides of a square, the saluting point, with a Union Jack, at which the commission, the consuls, and the staffs gathered, being in the centre. The detachments were first inspected, and then at noon the British National Anthem was played, and the proceedings terminated by the men marching past the commission.

I have, &c.
C. W. BURNEY,
Senior Officer of the International Force.

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[26629] No. 101.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 137.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 10, 1913.*

SERVIA and Bulgaria.

At conference of Ministers held last night, at which Chief of the General Staff and the Servian Minister from Sophia were present, the Servian Government decided to send in strongly-worded note to the Bulgarian Government demanding an immediate reply to their former note respecting revision of treaty.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[26634] No. 102.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June 10, 1913.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs is concerned at delay which is occurring in getting Delimitation Commission to work. Bulgarian Government was informed on 3rd June of the names of the Roumanian commissioners, but their Bulgarian colleagues, though selected, have not yet been approved by the King of the Bulgarians.

Minister for Foreign Affairs said that Roumania had done her best to expedite execution of protocol, and that if the Delimitation Commission's work was not completed within the period fixed by the protocol she would occupy the district awarded to her.

I reminded him that several weeks still remained, but he expressed doubts whether this would suffice. He anticipated disagreement between the commissioners, and then experts would have to be appointed by the Powers. All this would take time.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[26635] No. 103.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June 10, 1913.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs, speaking of the tension between the Balkan States, told me to-day that Roumania had made no engagement with any of them, and had no intention of taking sides. He spoke of mobilisation, in the event of war between Bulgaria and Servia seeming inevitable, as a means of exerting a restraining influence on both States, but said that nothing had been yet decided. King is at Constanza, and does not return till Saturday.

Communiqué in the principal Government organ, alluding to tension between the allies, concludes as follows:—

"Roumania will see to it that the equilibrium between the allies of yesterday is not jeopardised by the pretensions of one side or by weakness of the other."

(Sent to Sophia.)

[26637] No. 104.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 202.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 10, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 199 of 8th June: Doiran incident.

Bulgarian Government have returned favourable reply to Servian note to the effect that instructions have been sent for the troops to be immediately withdrawn.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

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[26639] No. 105.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, June 10, 1913.*

I LEARN from the Political Director that the Emperor of Russia telegraphed yesterday to the Kings of Bulgaria and Servia urging them to restrain their Governments from hostilities pending receipt of views of Emperor, the natural protector of all Slavs, on the questions at issue between the two States.

Greek Minister communicated yesterday to the Minister for Foreign Affairs a memorandum setting forth willingness of the Greek Government to accept arbitration in their differences with Bulgaria. This morning he withdrew the memorandum, saying that there had been an error in the transmission of the instructions from Athens. Political Director thinks that the Greek Government may, in view of Emperor of Russia's message to the Kings of Bulgaria and Servia, intend to annex territories in dispute with Bulgaria.

[26638] No. 106.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Berlin, June 10, 1913.*

SECRETARY of State for Foreign Affairs tells me that he has accepted Russian proposal for ambassadorial conference at Constantinople on Armenian reforms, but that he considers it rather a dangerous proceeding unless great care is taken. He fears that when the Armenians see that Powers are taking up their cause they may be tempted to do something on their own account. He thinks that maintenance of Turkish authority in Armenian vilayets is a matter of primary importance, and he hopes that you will agree with him that it is absolutely necessary that Ottoman Government should be represented at the conference.

[25408] No. 107.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 3, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 209 of 30th May: Designs on Asia Minor.

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs wishes me to tell you that he knows of no such impression existing at present in Berlin, and that, if there have been from time to time faint rumours in the press of such an arrangement as described, he has never for one moment believed them, as he knows that His Majesty's Government are just as anxious as the Imperial Government to maintain the integrity of the Turkish Asiatic possessions, and to support Ottoman Government in work of consolidation. He thinks there must be some misunderstanding either on the part of the German Ambassador himself or as to what he said to you.

[26633] No. 108.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 205.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 10, 1913.*

I READ to-day to Minister for Foreign Affairs your telegram No. 443 of 9th June.

He said that, having himself exhausted all arguments at Sophia and Belgrade, he had advised the Emperor to send a strongly-worded telegram on 8th June to the two Sovereigns stating that the Emperor was painfully impressed with news threatening hostilities between the allies, that His Majesty could not remain indifferent to this crime against Slavdom, and that he made fullest reserves as to attitude which Russia would assume as regards consequences of hostilities towards side which had commenced them.

M. Sazonof said that if this telegram produced no favourable result he would

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probably ask England and France to join in some form of pressure on the allies. The only pressure, however, which he seemed to have in mind was financial, and he stated confidentially that Bulgaria had just asked Russia for 1,000,000*l.*, which would be refused.

His Excellency entirely concurred in view expressed in section 3 of your above-mentioned telegram, that all the Powers could not be expected to act together with sufficient energy to impose peace. He said that to his knowledge Austria was encouraging Bulgaria to take up uncompromising attitude, her idea being to bring about combination of some kind between herself, Bulgaria, and Roumania. He therefore seemed to consider joint action with Austria as out of the question. Should hostilities commence I do not gather that he would be prepared to make a declaration of non-interference.

He might, I think, prefer to leave the allies under apprehension of some action on Russia's part.

[26630] No. 109.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 226.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 10, 1913.

THE *réunion* of Ambassadors in London cannot continue to sit indefinitely through the summer, and, if no progress is made soon, must adjourn without settling the frontier of Southern Albania and the Ægean islands.

Italy and Austria and Germany would, I think, agree to let all the islands go to Greece except Tenedos and Imbros, which would remain under Turkish sovereignty, and Thasos, which we are agreed must go to Bulgaria; but this would be conditional upon a settlement that left Stilos on the coast and Koritza in the hinterland to Albania.

The difficulty is that Greece may refuse, except under compulsion of force, to evacuate those places that under this settlement must go to Albania.

France, Russia, and England would probably be unwilling to use force to Greece.

I can, however, see only two possible alternatives. One is for the three Powers, as a first step, to inform Greece that the above settlement would be the best that can be obtained by agreement between the Powers, and to endeavour to get her to accept it.

The other alternative is a decision that the Powers are unable to come to an agreement about South Albania and the islands. In that event we should have to decide what is to be done if Italy and Austria take matters into their own hands and use force to Greece, and if Italy retains islands indefinitely.

Germany is, I believe, friendly to Greece, and anxious for a settlement, but gives her support diplomatically to her allies.

I shall be glad if Minister for Foreign Affairs will take the question into consideration and let me know his views.

[26964] No. 110.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 85.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 10, 1913.

THE Bulgarian Minister said that, in consequence of a remark that I had made to him at the Court last night, deprecating war between the allies, he had come to see me to ask if I had anything to say.

I said that I could only repeat that it would be a terrible thing if the allies, after having evoked the sympathy and admiration of public opinion during what was called the War of Liberation, were now to shock public opinion by fighting amongst themselves.

The Minister said that he was quite aware of this, but Bulgaria had her treaty with Servia and it must be observed. With regard to Greece there was no definite treaty as to the division of territory, and Bulgaria might come to an arrangement with her. The Turks, he thought, had been more difficult to deal with at the conference here because they were aware of the disagreements between the allies, and naturally

* Also to Mr. O'Beirne (No. 444).

were disposed to profit by them. A protocol had therefore been signed to the effect that, as the Balkan States were differently affected by the various proposals for a protocol made at the Peace Conference, the questions remaining unsettled should be discussed between Turkey and the allies separately.

I observed that complications from Roumania were possible if the allies fought amongst themselves.

The Minister rather indicated that if need be, Bulgaria could make an arrangement with Roumania direct.

As to what the Bulgarian Minister had said about the merits of the case between Bulgaria and Greece and Servia, I remarked that I could only repeat what a deplorable effect it would have on public opinion if, after fighting together against the Turks, they now fought amongst themselves. It was for them amongst themselves to find out how this catastrophe could be avoided.

The Minister spoke to me of what the King had said to some of the peace delegates after the luncheon at Buckingham Palace last Saturday, the 7th instant. The Minister thought that it was not right that what the King had said in private should have been made public.

I said that, in this instance, I thought that no harm had been done, for the sentiments expressed by the King were those that everyone felt and shared; but no doubt it was improper that when people went to lunch with the King, they should go away and give to the press what he had said in conversation.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[27018] No. 111.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Barclay.

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 10, 1913.

THE Roumanian Minister came to see me to-day, and gave me to read the following note, of which he was instructed to leave a copy with me if I asked for it.

I said that I could only say in general terms that I hoped there would be as few complications as possible in the Balkans, and that Roumania would not add to them unnecessarily. I also said that it was not clear to me how Roumanian interests would be affected by the division of territory between, for instance, Bulgaria and Servia. It looked rather as if Roumania thought that war between the allies was a good opportunity for getting an advantage for herself.

The Roumanian Minister said that Roumania had an interest in seeing equilibrium maintained in the Balkans, and that possibly by throwing herself on one side or the other she might tranquillise things.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 111.

Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Roumanian Minister in London.

M. le Ministre, *Bucarest, le* 23 *mai* (5 *juin*), 1913.

AUTORISÉ par le vote du Parlement roumain à accepter le protocole relatif au différend roumano-bulgare, signé à Saint-Pétersbourg le 26 avril (9 mai) de l'année courante par les représentants des Grandes Puissances médiatrices, le Gouvernement roumain a immédiatement pris les mesures nécessaires pour son exécution, bien que le contenu de ce protocole n'ait pas répondu en tous points aux attentes du pays.

Le Parlement et le Gouvernement roumain ont donné par là une nouvelle preuve du désir de la Roumanie d'agir, autant que ses intérêts le lui permettent, en harmonie avec la direction politique adoptée en commun par les Grandes Puissances de l'Europe.

Consciente du rôle que lui impose sa situation acquise et son essor économique et intellectuel, la Roumanie a été, pendant la crise orientale, un facteur décisif pour la localisation de la guerre et a contribué ainsi à éviter à l'Europe les conséquences d'une conflagration générale.

Cependant, des dissentiments semblent se manifester tout à coup parmi les alliés, en ce qui concerne le partage des régions conquises et la délimitation du nouvel État albanais. Comme ces questions touchent de près aux intérêts reconnus de la Roumanie,

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je crois devoir signaler dès aujourd'hui au Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité qu'une aggravation éventuelle de la situation dans les Balkans ne pourrait laisser la Roumanie indifférente.

La Roumanie exprime l'espoir que la paix sera promptement assurée, mais elle ne saurait, si son attente à ce sujet était trompée, persévérer dans l'attitude réservée qu'elle a gardée jusqu'ici.

Je vous prie de donner lecture de cette note à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et de lui en laisser copie s'il vous le demande.

Veuillez, &c.

T. MAÏORESCO.

[26616] No. 112.

Projet de Note anglaise (*suggested on June* 10 *by Hakki Pasha in place of our Draft*).

LE Gouvernement de Sa Majesté britannique n'a pas manqué d'examiner avec attention les différentes demandes formulées par la Sublime Porte à certaines époques et, en dernier lieu, au cours des négociations qui eurent lieu à Londres pour le règlement des questions pendantes entre les deux pays. Le soussigné, Principal Secrétaire d'État de Sa Majesté le Roi pour les Affaires Étrangères, vient, par la présente, communiquer à l'Ambassade Impériale de Turquie les décisions auxquelles son Gouvernement s'est arrêté sur les cinq points formant l'objet de ces demandes :—

1. Le Gouvernement britannique donne son consentement à la nouvelle majoration proposée de 4 pour cent des droits d'entrée en Turquie, qui seront ainsi portée à 15 pour cent *ad valorem* sans limitation de temps. La nouvelle majoration ne pourra être appliquée aux marchandises anglaises que si elle l'est également à tous les produits étrangers et après qu'un délai minimum de six mois ait été laissé avant sa mise en vigueur.

2. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté britannique déclare consentir à la conversion éventuelle des 15 pour cent *ad valorem* en un tarif de droits spécifiques aux conditions suivantes :—

(*a*.) Ledit tarif sera élaboré de commun accord.

(*b*.) Il n'entrera en vigueur qu'après un délai raisonnable, pas moins qu'un an après sa promulgation.

(*c*.) Il ne pourra, non plus que les 15 pour cent *ad valorem*, être changé ou modifié sans qu'un accord intervienne à ce sujet entre les deux Gouvernements.

3.

4. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté britannique déclare qu'il n'a pas d'objection de principe à l'abolition de ses bureaux postaux en Turquie à la condition que cette mesure s'étende à tous les bureaux étrangers, et que l'administration postale ottomane offre pour la transmission des correspondances les garanties requises de la sécurité et de la célérité. Le Gouvernement Royal n'a pas, non plus, d'objection à la vente, dans ses bureaux en Turquie, de timbres-postes ottomans. Ceci exigeant l'établissement d'une surcharge et certaines mesures d'ordre technique, il est prêt à entamer des négociations à ce sujet si les autres États ayant des bureaux de poste en Turquie conviennent d'étudier ce changement de système.

5. Le Gouvernement Royal espère que le Gouvernement Impérial créera sous peu, avec les réformes sérieuses de sa législation et de son organisation judiciaire, un état de choses susceptible de faire envisager la possibilité de l'abolition des capitulations. En attendant, et comme le système actuel pourra être amélioré dans beaucoup de ses détails, il se déclare prêt à nommer ses délégués si tous les Gouvernements internationaux se mettent d'accord pour l'institution d'une commission d'études.

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Annex.

Memorandum sent in Draft to Hakki Pasha, June 5, 1913.

HIS Majesty's Government have had under careful consideration the various draft conventions and declarations which have been drawn up, and initialled *ad referendum*, in the course of the recent negotiations with Hakki Pashi; they have also examined, with close attention, the memorandum communicated by his Highness on the 1st May, comprising a list of various concessions to which the Imperial Ottoman Government desire that His Majesty's Government should give their assent.

These documents may be dealt with under their several headings as follows:—

1. A convention relating to the establishment of a Commission to improve the conditions of navigation of the Shatt-el-Arab; and a declaration, annexed to the convention, providing for the representation on the Commission of neighbouring, but non-Turkish, *de facto* interests in the river.

His Majesty's Government are prepared to adhere to both these instruments, subject to a modification in article 21 of the convention, increasing its minimum duration to a period of sixty years, as in the case of Declaration No. 5 (*vide infra*). Since the assent of His Majesty's Government to the increased customs duties is requested for an unlimited period, and not merely for seven years, His Majesty's Government trust that the Imperial Ottoman Government will raise no objection to such a modification of article 21.

2. A convention, with a secret declaration annexed, providing for the settlement of the respective interests of Great Britain and Turkey in the region of the Persian Gulf.

To these documents His Majesty's Government are prepared to adhere.

3. A declaration, with the necessary maps, indicating the line of the Turco-Persian frontier from the region of Hawizeh to the sea.

His Majesty's Government are willing to join in this declaration; they understand, however, that an agreement providing for the settlement of the remaining part of the Turco-Persian frontier will likewise be concluded forthwith. As the Ottoman Government are aware, His Majesty's

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Government attach the greatest importance to the conclusion of this arrangement.

4. A convention relating to conditions of railway transport, and a declaration providing for the terminus of the Bagdad Railway to be at Basra.

His Majesty's Government are satisfied with the terms of this convention, provided the words "Turquie d'Asie" are substituted for "Asie Mineure" where they occur; the proposed declaration as to the terminus being at Basra is of cardinal importance.

5. A declaration respecting river navigation on the Euphrates and Tigris.

His Majesty's Government are prepared to accept this declaration as a satisfactory settlement of the question, subject of course to the adjustment of details between the Imperial Ottoman Government and the concessionnaire.

6. A declaration regarding the borrowing powers of Egypt.

[**Addition to come here.**]

The points to which the assent of His Majesty's Government is desired by the Imperial Ottoman Government are five :—

1. *An increase to* 15 *per cent.* ad valorem *of the Turkish import duties.*

It will be recalled that in 1907 His Majesty's Government, in concert with the other Powers concerned, agreed to the increase of the Turkish import duties from 8 per cent. to 11 per cent. *ad valorem* for a specified purpose and for a limited period of seven years, which expires in 1914.

In their note of July 1912 His Majesty's Government expressed their readiness, on stated conditions to agree,—

" to the maintenance, for a period of seven years, ... of the increase in the general rate of customs duty leviable on British goods on importation into the Ottoman Empire from 8 per cent. to 11 per cent. *ad valorem* which was agreed to in 1907, and also to the further increase of this general rate of customs duty from 11 per cent. to 15 per cent. *ad valorem* for the same period."

The present request of the Ottoman Government goes considerably beyond this concession: nevertheless, on the successful conclusion of the negotiations which have been proceeding with

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His Highness Hakki Pasha in London, His Majesty's Government are prepared to agree to the levy on British imports of 15 per cent. *ad valorem* without stipulating for a limitation of the period during which such a rate shall be enforced.

It must, however, be distinctly understood that this assent of His Majesty's Government is subject to two further conditions, firstly that the assent of other Powers concerned is obtained to the levy of a similar rate on their respective imports, and secondly that a period of notice, of not less than six months, is given before the increased duties are levied.

2. *The eventual substitution of a specific tariff, to be fixed by mutual agreement, for the proposed* 15 *per cent.* ad valorem *rate.*

Provided that such a change meets with the approval of other Powers, His Majesty's Government would be prepared to agree to it in principle, subject to the following conditions :—

(*a.*) The details of the scheme of conversion must be previously agreed between Great Britain and Turkey.

(*b.*) No such tariff, even when it has been agreed upon, shall be put into operation without a reasonable period of notice, which in any case shall not be less than twelve months.

(*c.*) The Imperial Ottoman Government shall previously make a declaration that the rights at present enjoyed by His Majesty's Government, whether under or by virtue of capitulations, treaties, notes, declarations, or otherwise, to veto any increase in the duties leviable on British imports into Turkey shall be fully reserved.

3. *The imposition of the "temettu" tax on British subjects on condition of its imposition on all foreigners in Turkey.*

This question is the subject of active negotiation at the present time between the Imperial Ottoman Government and the Embassies at Constantinople, and His Majesty's Government would hesitate to institute collateral negotiations in London, since to do so might lead to misunderstanding and misconstruction.

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4. *The abolition, in principle, of foreign post offices in Turkey; and, pending their abolition, the sale of Ottoman stamps.*

Though certain Powers have, His Majesty's Government are well aware, given a conditional assent to the abolition of their respective post offices in Turkey, the question is one in which it is impossible for His Majesty's Government to dissociate themselves from the collective action of the Powers. They are, however, prepared, subject to the assent of other Powers to a similar step, to agree to the abolition of British post offices in principle, on the understanding that no such abolition shall be effected until they are satisfied that the Ottoman postal administration affords adequate guarantees of security and promptitude in transmission of correspondence.

His Majesty's Government have no *primâ facie* objection to the sale of Turkish instead of British stamps; but it would be necessary to surcharge the stamps used in the British post offices, or otherwise differentiate them from the stamps sold at Ottoman Post Offices or the postal agencies of other Powers, and the technical details would have to be submitted to careful expert examination so as to avoid difficulties of accountancy and interference with the British local administration. If the other Powers concerned agreed to a similar change in principle, His Majesty's Government would be prepared to appoint a delegate to enquire whether the change is practicable.

5. *To study the question of the abolition of the Capitulations.*

As the Imperial Ottoman Government are aware, His Majesty's Government have consistently maintained that, *inter alia*, their right to veto the increase of taxation on British subjects and merchandise is derived from the capitulations, and this right they are not prepared to abandon.

Pending the introduction of drastic reforms in the Turkish judicial administration, His Majesty's Government feel that it would be somewhat premature even to study the possibility of abolishthecapitulations. None the less, they are prepared, if the other Powers agree to such a course, to appoint representatives to examine how far the existing conditions under the capitulations are capable of improvement.

[26656] No. 113.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 505.)
Sir,

Constantinople, June 7, 1913.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 401 of the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's vice-consul at Adana relative to the reported sinking of a Greek converted cruiser at Besh Parmak.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 113.

Vice-Consul Matthews to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 32.)
Sir,

Adana, May 30, 1913.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 25 of the 5th instant, respecting an engagement between a Greek converted cruiser and a Turkish force stationed on the heights above the village of Besh Parmak, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that, according to information which I have since received, the Greek cruiser was undamaged, but the Greek sailing vessel was sunk. There is reason to believe that the Greek sailing vessel was the "Ipapante," bound from Marseilles to Cyprus.

I have, &c.
W. D. W. MATTHEWS.

[26657] No. 114.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 506. Confidential.)
Sir,

Constantinople, June 7, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's vice-consul at Monastir reporting on the relations between the Bulgarian population and the Servian and Greek authorities at that place.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure 1 in No. 114.

Vice-Consul Greig to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 31. Confidential.)
Sir,

Monastir, May 25, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Excellency the following information regarding the position of the Bulgarian population in the portions of this district occupied respectively by the Serbs and by the Greeks.

The Position in the Servian Districts.

Herewith is enclosed a communication received from the Bulgarian Archbishop of Monastir* describing cases of oppressive treatment to which the Bulgarian element is stated to have been subjected by the Servian authorities.

To this communication, which is very long and redundant, I have attached an abbreviated translation giving the essential facts, comment or explanation being added where possible (see Enclosure 2).

Many of the details I am unable either to confirm or deny. But taken as a whole and with due allowance for exaggeration, most of the incidents described are in keeping with the purpose of Servian policy towards the non-Serb Christian communities in the

* Not printed.

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occupied districts. That purpose is the extinction of national feeling by undermining its strongest pillars—churches, monasteries, schools. In its entirety this policy is at present applied to the Bulgarian element only. It is most pronounced in the Dibra, Krchevo, Krushovo, and Perlepé districts, which have long been the clashing-point of Servian and Bulgarian propaganda in this region.

The chief incidents complained of are as follows :—

1. Churches and monasteries are stated in certain cases to have been closed or seized. The following instances are given :—

(*a.*) The forcible closing of the Exarchist churches at Lazaropole and Zernovitsa (Dibra).

(*b.*) The expulsion of the Exarchist priest from the church at Tresanché (Dibra), where a Servian priest appears to be officiating in his stead.

(*c.*) The expulsion of the Exarchist caretaker and occupants of the monastery at Krchevo and its seizure by the Servian ecclesiastical authorities.

2. The forcible subjection of the Exarchist population to the Servian hierarchy, of which the following instances are given :—

(*a.*) The Exarchist Archmandrite of Galichnik (Dibra) forbidden to officiate for refusing to recognise the Servian Bishop of Dibra instead of the Bulgarian Archbishop.

(*b.*) The Exarchist inhabitants of Lazaropole and Zernovitsa ordered by the Dibra prefecture to recognise the Servian instead of the Bulgarian spiritual authorities. Fourteen persons of Lazaropole imprisoned for refusing.

3. Suppression of the Bulgarian language, of which the following instances are given :—

(*a.*) Mutilation by the authorities of inscriptions in Bulgarian in the church at Lazaropole.

(*b.*) Mutilation by unknown persons of an inscription on the outside wall of the Bulgarian church of "Sviyeti Nedyela" (Monastir).

(*c.*) Flogging of a Bulgarian inn-keeper for having a sign-board worded in Bulgarian.

4. Forced labour, *e.g.*, the Bulgarian inhabitants of Lazaropole compelled to repair the road between Dibra and Zernovitsa.

5. Unfair impositions, of which the following cases are given :—

(*a.*) Heavy road tax exacted from the inhabitants of Lazaropole and neighbouring villages (Dibra).

(*b.*) Special tribute imposed on Lazaropole.

6. General persecution and abuse of authority, the following instances are given :—

(*a.*) Bulgarians prevented from travelling.
(*b.*) Bulgarian newspapers suppressed.
(*c.*) Viciously conducted searches for hidden arms.
(*d.*) Violent punishments—such as flogging accompanied by the exaction of bribes, exorbitant fines, imprisonment, or threats of death—inflicted on persons suspected of being agents of propaganda.
(*e.*) The arrest and subsequent disappearance of a Bulgarian schoolmaster and three other Bulgarians of Mavrova (Gostivar).

Since receipt of the foregoing information from the Bulgarian Archbishop of Monastir, the following incidents have occurred :—

(*a.*) On the 9th instant a Servian soldier proceeding from Resna towards Monastir was attacked and wounded by unknown persons near Gijavat.

(*b.*) On the 10th instant another soldier was seized on the same road near Tsapari (10 miles north by west of Monastir) by unknown persons one of whom seems to have shot him in the hand with the remark : "I will only wound you, but go to your officer and say that this is a sign that the Bulgars will not submit to Servian government."

The Servian authorities attached great importance to these incidents, in consequence of which a company of soldiers was sent to Gijavat and Tsapari, where ten persons were arrested and sent to Monastir. It is rumoured that some of these have been quietly put out of the way, but this is not yet confirmed.

It seems certain that several inhabitants of the village, who were not at the time arrested, have since vanished ; but it is quite possible that they have taken to the hills.

The Bulgarian Archbishop tells me that several Bulgarians of the two villages were beaten by the soldiers.

Upwards of 300 rifles are believed to have been discovered at Tsapari.

(*c.*) On the 16th instant, towards midnight, a Bulgarian family, named Penjerkef (alias Stamboulief), consisting of husband, wife, and a son aged 8, were mysteriously murdered in their home, of which they were the only inmates, in one of the most respectable quarters of Monastir. They were stabbed to death.

There is at present no clue as to the authors of the crime, but there is a general tendency amongst the local population to attribute it to Servian official agents. It is argued that it occurred significantly soon after the Gijavat and Tsapari incidents ; that the authorities had been talking openly of making an example ; that the victims were admirably chosen with a view to impressing other propaganda agents, for Penjerkef was once treasurer of the local Bulgarian Committee. It is also asked how the murderers, one of whom is known to have been wounded from bloodstains tracked along a neighbouring street, can have passed through the town so late without being challenged by any of the numerous sentries ; and why one of the bodies, the father's, lay exposed to the full view of passers-by for some hours after its discovery on the balcony of the house.

(*d.*) On the 23rd instant the following incidents occurred :—

1. A notice was found on the door of a house in Monastir, occupied by a Bulgarian family named Sekulof, demanding payment to the Bulgarian Committee of a large sum of money.

2. A similar notice was found on the door of another Bulgarian house, addressed to one Nikola Kurchief.

Both of these families have had intimate relations with the Committee in the past.

The local Bulgarians accuse the Servian authorities of forging these notices, which are expected to serve on a future occasion as a pretext for attacking other suspected persons.

The Position in the Greek Districts.

The following information regarding the treatment of the Bulgarian element by the Greek authorities has been received from the Exarchist Archbishop of Monastir :—

1. Wholesale arrests are stated to have been made amongst the Bulgarians, more especially in the Castoria district, the arrested persons being generally well-to-do members of the community—particularly priests, schoolmasters, and ex-komitajis.

They are usually apprehended on mere suspicion or on a vague charge of carrying on propaganda to the detriment of orthodoxy and hellenism. Most of the arrested persons are sent to Kozhani, Karaferia, Salonica, and Greece. The following instances are quoted :—

(*a.*) Traico Ristef, of Jelevo (Castoria), aged 60, arrested and sent to Salonica on a charge of spreading the report that a Bulgarian occupation of the district is imminent.

(*b.*) The Bulgarian schoolmaster of Roulia (Castoria) imprisoned for the discovery in his house of notes on outrages alleged to have been committed by the Greek and Turkish troops.

2. Exarchist priests who were originally Patriarchists are stated to have been forbidden to officiate in Slav. This is said to have been the case at Ochtima, Roulia, and Tirnovo (Castoria).

3. Searches in private houses for hidden weapons are stated to be frequent, and to be often used as an opportunity for robbery by the official agents employed.

From other sources news has been received of the following incidents in the Greek districts :—

1. Mito Petre, a Bulgarian of Monastir, who has been somewhat prominently concerned in propaganda, was arrested at Florina on the 12th instant, and sent to Karaferia, charged with being a carrier of seditious correspondence. Letters found in his possession seem to have contained invitations to prominent Bulgars of Florina and Castoria to attend a propaganda congress at Monastir.

2. On the 12th instant or thereabouts, seventeen Bulgars were arrested near Zelenitch, on a charge of murdering a Khoja, of Lubetino (Florina). They are reported to have been sent to Karaferia.

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3. About the 1st instant a Bulgarian priest from Kirk-Kilissé was arrested at Armensko, charged with being the carrier of seditious correspondence. He is reported to have been sent to Salonica with six other Bulgars of Armensko (Florina).

4. Shakir Effendi, a notable of Zelenitse, was recently arrested on a similar charge.

General Remarks.

Both the Servian and Greek authorities in this district fully believe in the existence of a Bulgarian propaganda supported from without, which means an organisation prepared to strike in the event of war between the allies. The symptoms seem to justify this belief. The support and countenance from without are probably Bulgarian and Austrian.

There is danger of the local authorities being carried away by their suspicions, and resorting to excessive measures of suppression likely to create an intolerable position and defeat their own purpose.

The whole district is probably better stocked with concealed arms and ammunition than ever before.

I have, &c.
C. A. GREIG.

Enclosure 2 in No. 114.

Extract from Communication from Bulgarian Archbishop of Monastir respecting the Ill-treatment of Bulgarians of the Monastir District by the Serbs in occupation.

[Observations in brackets are by Vice-Consul Greig.]

ON the 27th March two Bulgarian flags were removed by Servian soldiers from the roof of the Bulgarian school at Monastir, which is at present used as barracks, and torn up.

[I have no information about this.]

2. On the 30th March a Bulgarian mechanic of Struga, named Kavaef, was arrested and brought before the Commandant, who had him placed beside a newly-dug grave, and asked whether he had ever been a komitaji. On replying in the negative, he was told that the grave was for him. He was then thrown down, and beaten till he became unconscious. He was ultimately released, after being told that the rest of the Bulgars can expect the same fate. The local doctor, a Turk, was forbidden to dress his wounds.

[I have no information about this.]

3. The Church of Sviyeti Nedyela (Monastir) bears on its wall the inscription "Bulgarian Church of Sviyeti Nedyela." During the night of the 30th March the word "Bulgarian" was effaced by unknown persons. The authorities undertook to discover and punish the guilty persons, but did nothing.

[This is true.]

4. On the 2nd April the authorities at Monastir searched, with a view to discovering hidden arms, the houses and shops of the brothers Rusamarof, of the brothers Spanakof, and of Boris Gavazof.

On the premises of the first-named were found portions of uniforms which had been cast off by Turkish soldiers when Monastir was evacuated, and afterwards torn up for household use.

On the premises of the second-named was found a saddle. On the premises of the third-named was found the bayonet of a Mauser rifle. These innocent objects were confiscated, and in each case a fine of 100 fr. was inflicted.

The Spanakofs were in a position to prove that the saddle had been legitimately purchased, but that was not taken into account.

[This is believed to be substantially true.]

5. On the 7th March a Bulgarian ex-komitaji of Opticharé (Monastir), named Petre Pavlof, was arrested for being in possession of a Turkish rifle. He was released

on the 30th March, after giving the headman of the district a bribe of 10 liras. During his detention he was beaten every day, and his health is impaired.

He had been employed as a watchman, and therefore needed a rifle.

[I have no information about this.]

6. With the Petre Pavlof mentioned in the preceding paragraph was arrested a Khoja, of Ostrets (Monastir), who was accused of knowing of a place where arms were hidden. He was tortured to reveal it. After being nearly beaten to death he paid a bribe of 300 fr. and was released.

[I have no information about this. Ostrets, which is an Albanian village, has always been a den of thieves.]

7. Stoiché Dishkof, a Bulgarian, of Karaman (Monastir), was arrested on a charge of having a rifle. Although he had no such thing, he paid a bribe of 500 dinars to escape torture and imprisonment.

[I have no information about this.]

8. Towards the end of March Traiko Tsvetkof, a Bulgarian, of Perlepé, was fined 40 dinars for reading the Bulgarian newspaper "Vecherna Pochta."

[I have no information about this case. But all Bulgarian newspapers are forbidden except the "Balkan."]

9. On the 8th April Simeon Michaelof, a Bulgarian schoolmaster, of Istib, started on a journey to Salonica after duly obtaining the necessary official pass. On reaching the railway station he was searched, and an innocent letter from the Archbishop to the Exarchist authorities at Sophia was found in his possession. For this he was beaten and imprisoned fifteen days.

[I have no information about this.]

10. On the 15th April a Bulgarian named Georghi Christof, who owns the "Traders' Inn," at Monastir, was savagely flogged by a private of the 18th regiment named Milan Michaelof [*sic*] for not having had the inscription on the sign-board of his inn translated into Serb. He was further accused of carrying letters for the Bulgarian Committee between Monastir and Ochrida, and of spreading a report that the Bulgarian army would shortly occupy Monastir.

[I am unable to confirm this.]

11. The Serbo-Greek *entente* was celebrated in Monastir at Easter by feasting, drinking, and cries of "Long live Servia and Greece!" "Down with Bulgaria!"

[The Bulgarians have themselves held aloof since the occupation of Monastir by the Serbs from all festivities in common with the Serbs and Greeks. At Easter feeling was very strong against the Bulgarians, but I am unable to obtain any confirmation of the demonstrations alleged.]

12. (*a.*)—On the 13th January a Servian officer from Dibra arrived at Lazaropole, called together the Bulgarian schoolmasters, notables, and priests, and ordered them to recognise in future none but the Servian spiritual authorities, failing which they would be shot.

[I have been unable to obtain any information about this.]

(*b.*) On the 16th January Santi Popof, the chief Bulgarian schoolmaster of Lazaropole, was bound and carried to Dibra charged with inciting the inhabitants not to obey the order to recognise the Servian instead of the Exarchist ecclesiastical authorities.

[I have no information about this.]

(*c.*) On the 18th January the authorities sent to Zernovitsa a written order to refer to Bishop Varnava, of Dibra, in all ecclesiastical matters. The same day the Bulgarian priest of the village, Daniel Kostof, was assaulted whilst officiating in church by a

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Serboman named Vasil Gyorghief [*sic*], who snatched the chalice from his hands, asking him why he recognised Kozma and not Varnava.

[I have no information about this incident. Kozma is the Exarchist Archbishop of Krchevo and Varnava is the Servian Bishop of Dibra.]

(*d.*) On the 23rd January fourteen villagers of Lazaropole were arrested and brought before the Prefect of Dibra for refusing to sign an undertaking to recognise the Servian spiritual supremacy.

As they persisted in their refusal they were imprisoned for five days.

[I have no information about this incident.]

(*e.*) On the 2nd March Elia Efremof and fourteen other Bulgars, of Zernovitsa, were summoned before the authorities, who asked them whether they realised that in future they must recognise the Servian spiritual supremacy and abstain from Bulgarian propaganda.

They replied that they could not renounce their own ecclesiastical authorities, but that they had never taken part in any propaganda. Later they were dismissed by an official with the words, "You can go, and I will give you the celebration out of my 'Kurtsa'" [*sic*].

[I have no information about this incident.]

(*f.*) On the 3rd March the Bulgarian priests and schoolmasters of Lazaropole were summoned before the authorities at Zernovitsa, where a detailed enquiry was made as to their training, ordination, stipends, &c. One old schoolmaster stated that he received 64 liras a-year, whereupon an official remarked: "You are well paid to become Bulgarians. You are better paid than Passitch."

(*g.*) On the 18th January the Bulgarian church at Lazaropole was forcibly closed. The priests were previously told that they might continue to officiate if they did so only in the name of Varnava. They refused. At Tresanché, too, the Bulgarian priest has been driven from his church, where a Servian priest now officiates.

[I have no information about this.]

(*h.*) On the 18th March the Bulgarian monastery at Krchevo was seized by the Servian authorities, who evicted the caretaker and other persons.

[This is believed to be true.]

(*i.*) The Bulgarian Archmandrite of Galichnik (Dibra), Pavel Theodosief, has been repeatedly urged by the Servian Bishop Varnava and by the authorities at Zernovitsa to renounce the Exarch. They offered him 120 liras a-year and five years' stipend in advance, but he refused. Since then he has been confined to his house.

[I have no information about this.]

(*j.*) On the 18th March all the men of Lazaropole of fifteen years and more were ordered to repair the road between Dibra and Zernovitsa. The official who gave the order said, "Your mothers were Bulgars and you shall work till you squeal."

[I have no information about this.]

(*k.*) On the 19th March the Mayor of Lazaropole read an order from the prefect that the Bulgarian word-terminations must be removed within twenty-four hours, from inscriptions on the icons in the village church. This order was carried out by the Servian schoolmaster.

[I have no information about this.]

(*l.*) On the 20th March the authorities at Zernovitsa imposed on the Bulgarian villages of the district a special road-tax of 24 fr. for every male over fifteen years old. Several families were called upon to pay this tax for men who are away serving as volunteers in the Bulgarian armies. They presented a petition for exemption to the chief official of Zernovitsa who roughly refused their request. The village of Lazaropole alone has 247 men in the Bulgarian forces.

[I have no information about this incident. But it is believed that the most monstrous levies are made by the rural communal officials apparently on their own account. Attempts have been made in many places to wring all sorts of illegal dues out of ruined Moslems returning to burnt-out villages. This vice-consulate has frequently brought such cases to the notice of the local authorities, with the result that the attempt has not been persisted in, but the dishonest officials are never punished.]

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(*m.*) On the 22nd March the authorities of Lazaropole demanded of the inhabitants a sum of 11,432 fr. This tribute was collected by the harshest of methods, the most necessary household effects being confiscated in the case of persons unable to pay.

[I have no information about this incident.]

(*n.*) On the 24th March Angel Stoikof and Sofroni Nikof of Gari applied to the authorities for permission to find substitutes instead of working personally on the road. The mayor, who had a grudge against them, reported to the prefect that they had refused to work. They received twenty-five lashes each.

[I have no information about this.]

(*o.*) On the 26th March Efstatia Narkof and Ivan Panef, Bulgarian schoolmasters of Lazaropole, were questioned by the authorities as to the number of their pupils and the financial support given by the villages to the schools. They were also asked how long the village had acknowledged the Exarch. Markof replied "forty-one years." Panef, not knowing these details, was unable to offer any information. For that reason he has been in prison ever since.

[I have no information about this.]

(*p.*) On the 25th March the priests, deacons, and elders of Lazaropole, were called upon to show the church accounts to the authorities.

(*q.*) On the 23rd March the Bulgarian schoolmaster and three other Bulgars of Navrova (Gostivar) were called before the authorities. Since then nothing more has been heard of them. To the enquiries of their friends the authorities replied: "Possibly they have been killed. These are abnormal times and there are Albanians about."

[I have no information about this. In my despatch No. 1 of the 23rd January the disappearance was reported of another Bulgarian schoolmaster named Athanas Lutvief of Perlepé.]

(*r.*) On the 19th March Stoyan Dimitrof, the Bulgarian priest of Sredno-Eghri (Monastir) was accused by the authorities at Monastir of compelling patriarchists of the same village to attend the Exarchist Church. The prefect used the most objectionable language to him, called him a komitaji, and cursed his religion. In the ante-room of the prefect's office he was struck in the face by police officials, who warned him not to talk of what had happened on penalty of death.

At the same time Athanas Dimitrof, Mayor of Sredno-Eghri, was charged with the same offence. He too on penalty of death was warned not to tell anyone what had happened.

As a matter of fact, neither of them had interfered with the patriarchists.

[I have no information about this.]

(*s.*) On the 21st April the prefect of Monastir sent for all the municipal employes of the neighbourhood. They were admitted one by one into his presence and warned not to harbour any outlawed persons and to give notice should any go to their villages.

At the same time the Bulgarian priest of Kukerechani, Vasil Kolef, was sent for and struck in the face by the prefect himself for alleged neglect of four Servian families in his parish.

He was warned that a repetition of the offence would involve the penalty of death. He was taunted with being a Bulgarian priest and a komitaji.

Another Bulgarian, Secula Georgief, recently employed as a municipal official at Mogila (Monastir), was struck so fiercely by the prefect that a tooth was knocked out.

All these persons were warned on penalty of death not to visit the Bulgarian archbishop or complain of what had happened. They were dismissed with the words: "If we remain here, you will all become Serbs. If we go, you can become Turks or Gipsies if you like."

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The prefect added: "If I remain here, I will make you all rich," which presumably means that he will skin them all and make them beggars [*sic*].

[I am unable to confirm this.]

(*t.*) News has been received from Perlepé that Bulgarian ex-komitajis are being unjustifiably arrested.

At Easter the inhabitants of Perlepé were ordered to decorate their houses with Servian flags. Non-compliance was punished by a fine of 3 fr.

[I am informed that a large number of Bulgarians have of late been arrested on suspicion at Perlepé. About the other statement, I have no information. As the military governor of the town is an extreme chauvinist, it is not at all improbable.]

[26658] No. 115.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 507.)

Sir, *Constantinople, June* 7, 1913.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 494 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to forward herewith two despatches from His Majesty's vice-consul at Cavalla, reporting on the relations between the Greeks and Bulgarians in that district.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure 1 in No. 115.

Acting Vice-Consul Morgan to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 23.)

Sir, *Cavalla, May* 26, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday morning, about 7 A.M., a Greek squadron of eleven vessels appeared off Beyaz Koum (about 3 miles east of Cavalla on the Cavalla–Sarishaban road), sailing close to the coast. Bulgarian guns posted near Kara Koum fired two warning shots at the squadron, to indicate that approach to Cavalla port and neighbouring coast-line was forbidden. Six ships of the squadron then made off in the direction of the east coast of Thasos, and a seventh—a transport—sailed towards the west of Thasos. The remaining four, composed of the "Averoff," one small cruiser of an old type, and one large and one small torpedo-destroyer, steamed slowly across the bay of Cavalla towards the point of Leftera, keeping at a distance of some 7 or 8 miles from the land. Meanwhile the Bulgarian guns posted west of the town, both siege and smaller guns, fired some fifteen shots towards the flotilla, the shells dropping into the water at a great distance from the ships. These shots were again in the nature of a warning that Cavalla port was closed. The ships did not reply, and when close to Cape Leftera turned and slowly steamed towards the south of Thasos.

The visit of the ships and the firing caused some excitement in town. The authorities cleared the streets for a time, and sent out patrols of twenty men to assure the calm of the town. The rest of the day passed off uneventfully.

On Thursday last fighting between Greek and Bulgarian troops began at Anghista (on the north slope of Mount Pangheion). The fighting ended yesterday evening. The Bulgarians claim to have captured and burnt the villages of Anghista, Vulcista, and Kyupkeuy, and to have driven the Greeks out of that district. The Greeks claim a brilliant victory over the Bulgarians, and state that they have put over 300 cavalry and 600 infantry out of action. This latter claim is probably exaggerated. Twenty-two Greek soldiers, surprised by a larger Bulgarian force, were taken prisoners, and are now in Drama. They have been deprived of their arms, but are allowed to go about freely in the town in charge of two Bulgarian soldiers.

I have, &c.
JAMES MORGAN.

Enclosure 2 in No. 115.

Acting Vice-Consul Morgan to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 24.)

Cavalla, May 29, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, as a result of conflicts with Greek troops, Bulgarian troops have occupied all villages on the eastern and northern slopes of Mount Pangheion, and all villages on the western slopes as far south as Lakovikia, dominating Chai Aghzi, at the mouth of the River Struma. Greek troops still remain in possession of Leftera port, Mustenya, and Orfano. A squadron of Greek warships is to-day anchored in the harbour of Leftera. Zihna is in the hands of the Bulgarians, and Nigrita is also reported to have been occupied by them.

Yesterday M. Condogouris, secretary of legation, and former Greek consul at Cavalla, was expelled from the town by the Bulgarian authorities, acting on orders from higher quarters. M. Condogouris arrived here some three months ago to look after Greek interests, but was not officially recognised by the local authorities. Yesterday evening he was summoned to the local Government offices, and after a two hours' interview with the sub-governor of the town, and after his effects had been searched, was sent to Pravishta under the surveillance of a Bulgarian gendarme at 11 P.M., and thence towards Leftera until the Greek lines were reached, when he was handed over to the Greek authorities.

A censorship of letters has for the last four or five days been in force at Drama, and still continues.

I have, &c.
JAMES MORGAN.

[26659] No. 116.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 508.)

Sir, *Constantinople, June* 7, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from the military attaché to this Embassy, reporting on the acquisition of further war material by the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 116.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tyrrell to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 24.)

Sir, *Constantinople, June* 2, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to submit a statement of the guns and other war material which have arrived, and of further important orders for the same which have recently been made by the Turkish Government.

As reported by Colonel Reed in a despatch No. 21 of the 1st May, the "Kizil Ermak," when she arrived here on the 29th April from Constanza, brought thirty-six old pattern 15 cm. howitzers. As far as I can ascertain, these were ordered last November for the immediate defence of the Chatalja lines, and were purchased through Krupp, but as these howitzers are no longer made it is supposed that Krupp obtained them from the German Government, which had discarded them.

The "Kizil Ermak" arrived again from Constanza on the 16th May, bringing the "Parseval" airship, the purchase of which was reported in my No. 18 of the 6th April, and eighteen quick-firing howitzers of 10½ cm., which are of the present German army pattern.

I am told at the Field Artillery Department at the War Office, through whom the above fifty-four howitzers were ordered, that their total cost was about 70,000*l.*, and that they have been paid for. The comparatively low cost is due to the fact that at least the first thirty-six are only second-hand weapons.

Four quick-firing howitzers were received from Germany early in the year, as previously reported. They too were purchased in a hurry, and represent two different types, both, I believe, of 15 cm.

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As the result of trials for a light field howitzer which were carried out last year, a contract was signed on the 6th May last with the Austrian firm of Skoda for the supply of nine batteries of 10½-cm. quick-firing howitzers, each battery to consist of four pieces, eight ammunition wagons, and 1,000 rounds per piece. The price, about 220,000*l.*, includes, besides all the usual accessories, one observation ladder and one panoramic telescope per battery. Delivery to commence in seven, and complete in ten months from date of contract. These howitzers should, therefore, be arriving in December, January, and February next.

A further contract has just been signed with Krupp for thirty-six quick-firing howitzers of 15 cm. and eight large howitzers of 30½ cm. (about 12-inch). The latter are intended for the Dardanelles forts, and the amount of this contract, about 700,000*l.*, includes special mountings for them, and 900 rounds per piece for all.

The eighteen batteries (seventy-two guns) of quick-firing mountain guns ordered from the French firm of Creusot in 1911 have been delivered here during the past six months. There remain to be delivered nine batteries (thirty-six guns) of the same matériel which belong to a later order (May 1912).

As regards small-arm ammunition, 50,000,000 rounds have recently been ordered from Carlsruhe and 50,000,000 from Hirtenberg. These, as well as the order mentioned in my despatch No. 8 of the 5th February, are said to be part of a total of 800,000,000 rounds which it is intended to purchase. The Carlsruhe prices are lower and their cartridges better than those of Hirtenberg, but there appears to be some sort of obligation to purchase a certain proportion from the latter firm, and I believe an obligation of this sort was incurred in connection with some gun-running expedition to Tripoli last year, arranged with the firm in question.

I venture to think that the matter reported in this despatch does not give much promise of retrenchment in military expenditure, while the fact that the Turkish Government has not the cash even to pay its troops (salaries in the army are from three to four months in arrear) does not deter Krupp and other firms from doing business with it. As far as I can make out, Treasury bonds are being accepted—at a discount, of course—in payment, and these will be converted into cash or some better security out of the proceeds of the loan which the Turkish Government counts on getting as a result of the conclusion of peace.

I have, &c.
G. E. TYRRELL, *Military Attaché.*

[26660] No. 117.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 509.)
Sir, *Constantinople, June* 7, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from the military attaché to this embassy, reporting on the position of the Ottoman troops in Albania.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 117.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tyrrell to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 25.)
Sir, *Constantinople, June* 4, 1913.

IN connection with the arrival of invalids from the Turkish army in Albania, reported in my No. 23 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that I have received a visit from one of the officers who returned in that ship. He was chief of the staff of the 7th Army Corps at the battle of Monastir, and as there has hitherto been no authentic news of the numbers or whereabouts of the various Turkish armies in the west, his information may be of interest.

He tells me that there now remain only about 15,000 men, not all of whom are armed, and including invalids. The only body still resembling an army is a mixed force of from 5,000 to 6,000 men under Liva Ghalib Pasha (formerly general officer commanding 13th division) at Fieri. Ali Riza Pasha, who is still the nominal commander-in-chief, and Zekki Pasha, the commander of the army of the Vardar, with their staffs, are at Dukash, some 5 miles south-east of Fieri. Djavid Pasha and Kara

Saïd Pasha, each with a small force, are at Yagodina (8 miles north-east of Fieri) and Berat respectively. All that remains of the artillery is a few mountain guns. The exploits of Djavid Pasha's army since the fall of Yanina, and indeed that army itself, have existed only in the imagination of newspaper correspondents.

I have, &c.
E. G. TYRRELL, *Military Attaché.*

P.S. *June* 5.—An Italian ship which arrived yesterday from Valona brought a further contingent of 50 officers and 250 men, while two transports left here on the 2nd to embark more of these troops.

E. G. T.

[26664] No. 118.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 514.)
Sir, *Constantinople, June* 7, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from the military attaché to this embassy reporting on Turkish naval matters.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 118.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tyrrell to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 26.)
Sir, *Constantinople, June* 6, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that the combine of British firms (Messrs. Armstrong, Vickers, and John Brown) which is building the Turkish Dreadnought "Reshadieh" has been approached directly by the Turkish Government with a scheme under which the combine would not only undertake the building of the dockyard in the Gulf of Izmid, which has long been projected, but would also take over the whole of the existing dockyards, arsenals, repair-shops, &c., in the Golden Horn, and run them, as well as the new dockyard, on business principles for a period of twenty-five years or until such time as the Turkish Government felt itself capable of managing them efficiently itself. The idea is doubtless due to the initiative of Admiral Limpus, who has realised the incapability of the Turkish Admiralty to manage their affairs owing to the lack of technical knowledge and ignorance of modern conditions, and who has long favoured some such solution of this question. That they are thinking of taking it up is perhaps evidence of a present intention to be guided by their British advisers and to follow their advice, which has not always been the case in the past. It is also of interest to note that the proposal has been made direct to the British firm in question, and that there appears to be no intention of putting up the construction of the new dock to public adjudication. I am told that when the Grand Vizier was spoken to privately a short time ago on this subject, he replied that it was intended to go to England for everything concerning the navy, and that no one else need apply.

There is now a considerable body of opinion which advocates increased expenditure on the navy at the expense of the army. Hitherto the former has been, comparatively speaking, starved, and the army has had considerably more than its fair share of the expenditure on naval and military requirements. Many army officers now advance the view that the navy must in future be much stronger, but that the army must be reduced to limits which the finances of the country can support.

Unfortunately the idea prevails that a strong navy can be produced by the simple process of buying ships and engines of war, and there is always the possibility of some foolish step being taken in this direction. When the "Goeben" was here, the German admiral told me that he had been approached by the Turkish Government with a view to her purchase. I cannot say how far this is true, but it was currently rumoured here at the time that the German Government had sent the ship here in the hopes of selling her to the Turks, as they had sold them two battleships for which they had no further use in 1910.

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Negotiations have also been in progress for the purchase of the two Brazilian Dreadnoughts. Whether the Turkish Government or Admiralty were really contemplating this step is uncertain, but Mahmoud Shevket Pasha told me that it was a scheme of the late Cabinet's. The scheme probably emanated from some middle party which hoped to profit from the transaction, and though it now seems to have definitely failed, it is always possible that something of this sort might be carried through (by the Committee for the National Subscription for the Fleet, for instance), without the consent, or even knowledge, of the Admiralty and its responsible advisers.

A similar attempt has been made by the Italian Societa Commerciale d'Oriente (which, it may be noted, is speculating in Turkish Treasury bonds) to induce the Turks to buy three submarines from Italy. This attempt, too, appears so far to have been unsuccessful.

The contract for the ammunition of the "Reshadieh" has recently been signed with the combine which is building the ship. It is for 285,000*l.* and contains one item which is of some technical interest. It is that the Turkish Admiralty stipulates that all the armour-piercing shells of the 13·5-in. guns, as well as the caps for the analogous projectiles of the 6-in. armament, shall be supplied by Hadfield's, though that firm is not in the combine.

There is perhaps more reason to be hopeful for the reorganisation of the Turkish navy just now than there has been for a long time past, as the totally incommensurate results achieved by the navy in the recent wars has produced a chastened feeling and brought home to the Admiralty the ineptitude of the course which it has pursued during the last three years.

I have, &c.
G. TYRRELL.

[26755] No. 119.

Treasury to Foreign Office.—(Received June 11.)

Treasury, June 10, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury Sir Walter Langley's letter of the 23rd ultimo, in which Secretary Sir E. Grey invites the observations of their Lordships in certain points raised in a memorandum, dated 8th May, by the British delegate to the International Commission at Paris, dealing with the Balkan financial settlement, and I am directed to make the following reply.

2. As regards the first point raised by Sir P. Harvey, their Lordships are scarcely in a position to offer any advice as to the weight which may properly be given to the arguments of the German delegates involving questions of principle and of international law, of which this Department has no special knowledge; but they adhere to the opinion already expressed in their previous letters that—viewed merely from the financial side—the French proposal is the better, on the assumption, which from Sir P. Harvey's memorandum appears to be satisfied, that the share of the allies calculated by this method is not less than the yield from the conquered territories of the specific revenues assigned and applied to the service of the Ottoman Debt.

3. The Secretary of State will remember that in their letter of the 19th February last their Lordships discussed the difficulties of arranging (in view of possible diversions of trade, &c.), that the creditors of Turkey shall enjoy, in the conquered territories, precisely the same security as heretofore, and suggested that the solution might be found in the principle of equivalent security.

4 As regards the third point of the British delegate, my Lords cannot, on the information before them, judge whether the argument (*a*), that the bondholders have a right to assume that the surtax will be perpetuated is sound or not.

5. In reference to Sir P. Harvey's argument (*b*), the position would appear to be as follows:—Under the French proposal the allies will be called on to become responsible for a certain fraction of the Ottoman Debt, depending on the proportion borne by the revenues of the ceded territories to the total revenues of the Turkish Empire. Let it be assumed, merely as an illustration, that this method gives as a result the fraction $\frac{1}{3}$, and that the total capital of the Ottoman Debt is £*x* which will be repaid in a period of *z* years by an annuity of £*y*. Then the allies will have to pay either a capital sum of $£\frac{x}{3}$ or an annuity of $£\frac{y}{3}$ for *z* years.

6. Sir P. Harvey points out that the effect of assuming that the customs surtax ends in 1914 is to increase the period of amortisation, *z*, and to decrease the

annuity £*y* without altering £*x*, so that the capital sum to be paid by the allies, viz., $£\frac{x}{3}$ remains the same. This is true provided that the fraction $\frac{1}{3}$ also remains unaltered, which will be the case if the share of the allies is calculated under the French method on the ratio of the revenues of the ceded territories (including the yield of the customs surtax) to the total revenues of the Turkish Empire (also including the yield of the customs surtax).

7. But if the customs surtax is to be excluded in calculating the share of the allies by the French method, it will be necessary to consider whether the yield of the customs surtax is derived in the same ratio as other revenues from the conquered territories and from the remainder of the Turkish Empire respectively. If not, then the effect of excluding it from the calculation may be to diminish the amount of the Debt to be taken over by the allies.

8. Their Lordships agree with Sir P. Harvey's arguments (*c*) and (*d*).

I am, &c.
ROBERT CHALMERS.

[26816] No. 120.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 272.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, June 11, 1913.*

GRAND VIZIER was this morning, while driving in his motor-car, attacked in the street by a number of unknown individuals who fired several shots. Grand Vizier succumbed to his wounds and one of his aides-de-camp likewise. Motives unknown. Military and police precautions are being taken at Government offices.

[26802] No. 121.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 11, 1913.*

SERVIA and Bulgaria.

Sophia telegram No. 202 of 10th June.

There are persistent rumours here that some fighting has taken place between Servian and Bulgarian troops in the neighbourhood of Doiran. I can, however, obtain no official news.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[26813] No. 122.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 203.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 11, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 201 of 9th June: Ministerial crisis.

All efforts to persuade the Prime Minister to remain in office having failed, the King of the Bulgarians has called [group undecypherable] M. Danef. The latter is now engaged in forming a coalition Cabinet; M. Teodorof has agreed to retain his post as Minister of Finance.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[26820] No. 123.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 204. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 11, 1913.*

BELGRADE telegram No. 137 of 10th June: Servian demand for revision of treaty.

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An answer in the negative has already been prepared and awaits signature of new President of the Council.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[26821] No. 124.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 205.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 11, 1913.*

BUCHAREST telegram No. 72 of 10th June.

Bulgarian delimitation commissioners were appointed yesterday, and expect to proceed to Silistria next week.

(Sent to Bucharest.)

[26819] No. 125.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 74. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June 11, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of 10th June.

I understand that Minister for Foreign Affairs told the Bulgarian and Servian Ministers yesterday that Roumania would mobilise if war broke out.

(Sent to Sophia and Belgrade.)

[26801] No. 126.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, June 11, 1913.*

ANSWER of French Government to your telegram No. 225 of 9th June is:—

"We are quite in agreement with British Government as regards necessity to know views of Russian Government in the event of a Balkan conflict. We are ready, as they are, to associate ourselves in any action which the Powers might take with the object of maintenance of peace. We would even accept the idea of an Austro-Russian co-operation, but it does not seem likely that such a combination would be accepted at St. Petersburgh."

[26822] No. 127.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, June 11, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 226 of yesterday: Albania and Ægean islands.

Minister for Foreign Affairs will have to consult his colleagues, but personally he thinks that it is not necessary for the present to make such representations to Greek Government. He believes that, though Austria and Italy will adhere to their requirements in regard to Adriatic coast, additional territory may be obtainable for Greeks in the interior.

[26817] No. 128.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 208.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 11, 1913.*

BULGARIAN Minister informs me that he was instructed on 8th June to state to the Russian Government that the Bulgarian Ministerial crisis was not, as Servians appeared to apprehend, a fiction designed to delay the meeting of the four Premiers,

but that Bulgaria desired this meeting to take place. He asked the Russian Government to bring this declaration to the knowledge of Servian and Greek Governments.

He stated to me that Ministerial crisis would probably be ended to-morrow.

He added very confidentially that the essential thing was that M. Hartwig should insist on Servia accepting Russia's arbitration instead of telling Servians that they could obtain concessions from Bulgaria without arbitration. He was going to speak in this sense to M. Sazonof.

[26818] No. 129.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 209.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 11, 1913.*

SERBO-BULGARIAN conflict.

Minister for Foreign Affairs thinks that best chance of avoiding hostilities would lie in Premiers coming at once to St. Petersburgh without preliminary meeting. He feels a difficulty in himself pressing for this, as Russia has already intimated her willingness to arbitrate, and might appear to be pursuing her own ends by insisting further. He thinks, however, that it might be useful if you would consent to point out at Belgrade that principal difficulties in the way of a submission to arbitration seem to come from Servia, and to urge strongly that Premiers should come here at once.

M. Sazonof would of course be grateful if you would also urge this course at Sophia.

[26826] No. 130.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Salonica, June 11, 1913.*

KING OF GREECE and General Staff expected here to-morrow.

Impression prevails that, failing strong intervention, hostilities are inevitable.

[27258] No. 131.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 227.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 11, 1913.*

AT the *réunion* to-day it was clear that Governments of Italy and Austria, supported by Germany, would not go further than settlement of South Albanian frontier and islands described in my telegram of yesterday.

I have adjourned discussion for a week. It is important to know whether French Government are prepared to recommend Greece to accept this settlement.

If not, it must be decided whether Greece is to be supported by France, Russia, and England against Italy and Austria, or whether Greece is to be told by these three Powers that she must settle with Italy and Austria alone about South Albania, while the three Powers come to an understanding with the other Powers about the islands. We should naturally make a free hand to Italy and Austria to settle the South Albanian frontier dependent upon a definite and satisfactory decision about the islands.

If it was decided to adopt this latter course, it could be pointed out to Greece that it would be better for her to agree to accept any settlement that was made on her behalf by France, Russia, and England with Austria and Italy about South Albania than to be left to make her own terms alone with those two Powers.

You should consult Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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* Also to Mr. O'Beirne (No. 447), *mutatis mutandis*.

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[16801] No. 132.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 228.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1913.

YOUR telegram No. 74 of to-day.

I have explained to French Ambassador that it was precisely because Austro-Russian co-operation in use of force against Slavs seemed to me impossible that I did not see how the Powers could come to an agreement that would require such co-operation in order to be effective.

[26639] No. 133.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 229.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1913.

YOUR telegram No. 73 of 10th June.

The Greek Minister communicated to me on the 10th a memorandum in which M. Venizelos invited the allies (1) simultaneously to reduce their effectives; (2) to accept an *entente à quatre* with a view to a solution of the question of partition; and, (3) if this was not agreed to by Bulgaria, recourse to arbitration.

[23711] No. 134.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 60.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1913.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's consul-general at Canea relative to the claim of the late Dr. Ittar against the Cretan Government.*

The previous correspondence connected with this claim dates back to the year 1906, and will be found in the volumes of confidential print series "Crete" in the archives of His Majesty's legation.

The most recent papers are the following: Consul-General Howard, No. 32 of March 3, 1906; to Consul-General Howard, No. 25 of March 19, 1906; Consul-General Howard, No. 116 of July 12, 1906; to Consul-General Howard, No. 92 of July 31, 1906; Consul-General Howard, No. 130 of August 3, 1906; to Acting Consul-General Graham, No. 99 of August 22, 1906; to Acting Consul-General Graham, No. 126 of October 10, 1906. A copy of Acting Consul-General Graham, No. 195 of the 26th November, 1906, which has not been printed, is also enclosed.†

It was intended to discuss with Mr. Graham, who returned to England in December of the same year, the details of the proposals respecting arbitration in this case, which should be made to the Cretan Government, but unfortunately the matter was overlooked, and the case was not heard of again till now.

In the circumstances the only means of dealing with the matter would appear to be that suggested by Mr. Wratislaw, viz., to endeavour to induce the Greek Government to assume the liability on annexing the island of Crete.

You should accordingly take steps to attain this object, but in doing so should carefully abstain from mentioning the proposal, accepted by the Cretan Government, to refer the case to arbitration.

It is, however, to be feared that this proposal will be remembered by the Greek Government, and that they will express unwillingness to pay to the heirs of Dr. Ittar the arrears of interest which have accumulated owing to the failure of His Majesty's Government to take further steps in connection with the arbitration.

Apart from this, the Greek Government may well contend that the failure of His Majesty's Government for so long to insist on their rights, releases Greece from any obligation to pay the claim which, but for that failure, would have been discharged long ago.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

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* Part VIII, No. 411.

† Mr. Graham, No. 195, November 26, 1906.

[27258] No. 135.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.**

(No. 123.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1913.

AT the *réunion* with Ambassadors to-day the Italian Ambassador put the following on record:—

"Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté, lié comme il est par les dispositions du Traité de Lausanne, est tenu à garder à la disposition du Gouvernement ottoman les îles occupées par les troupes Royales.

"Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté ne croit pas, par conséquent, pouvoir prendre part à la discussion entre les Puissances sur le sort des îles susdites ni s'associer aux démarches éventuelles que les Puissances feront auprès de la Sublime Porte pour lui notifier la décision qui aura été prise.

"Étant donné l'intérêt de toutes les Puissances au maintien de l'intégrité de l'Empire ottoman et à la sécurité de ses provinces de la Turquie asiatique, le Gouvernement du Roi ne doute pas que les Puissances, au moment de régler le sort général des îles de la mer Égée, partageront son point de vue sur la nécessité de sauvegarder le plus possible les intérêts et le prestige de la Turquie."

Discussion then ensued about the Southern Albanian frontier and the Ægean islands.

It was clear that the Italian and Austrian Ambassadors would not be allowed by their Governments to make any concession on the arrangement previously sketched out.

The French Ambassador's instructions did not permit him to agree to it.

The Russian Ambassador was without instructions.

I felt that we must take one line or the other before the end of the month, and, in order to force the consideration of the question, I made the following statement:—

"Sir E. Grey said that he would not become a party to any agreement without being prepared to join in imposing it or to see it imposed upon Greece by force. This was a very serious decision to take, and he must consult the Prime Minister and his colleagues. He wished to be in a position to say definitely either that Great Britain would join in recommending an agreement to Greece, adding, if necessary, that Greece must take the consequences if she refused to accept it; or else to say definitely that Great Britain could not become a party to the agreement proposed."

This was afterwards embodied in the record made in French:—

"Sur la proposition des Ambassadeurs d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Italie relative à la délimitation du sud de l'Albanie, Sir E. Grey dit qu'il ne peut participer à aucun accord sans être prêt à se joindre à des mesures de nature à l'imposer et sans examiner s'il peut être imposé à la Grèce par la force.

"Ce serait une très sérieuse décision à prendre, et il doit consulter à ce sujet le Premier Ministre et ses collègues du Cabinet. Il désire être en situation de déclarer d'une façon positive si, en recommandant l'acceptation d'un accord des Puissances à la Grèce, la Grande-Bretagne pourra ajouter s'il le faut que la Grèce doit envisager les conséquences de son refus d'accepter cet accord, ou, au contraire, si la Grande-Bretagne devra déclarer qu'elle ne peut participer à l'accord proposé.

"L'Ambassadeur de France dit que ses instructions ne lui permettent pas d'adhérer à la proposition des Ambassadeurs d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Italie, notamment en ce qui concerne l'attribution de Koritsa à l'Albanie. Il se réserve de consulter son Gouvernement.

"Les Ambassadeurs d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Italie se déclarent dans l'impossibilité de modifier leur proposition."

The Austrian Ambassador having raised the question of pressing Montenegro and Servia to evacuate places within the Albanian frontier still occupied by them, I suggested that this might be accompanied by the confirmation to Servia of the promise about railway access to the Adriatic and by some indication to Montenegro that as soon

* Also to Sir F. Bertie (No. 374), Sir E. Goschen (No. 189), Sir R. Rodd (No. 154), and Sir G. Buchanan (No. 222).

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as the Albanian territory occupied by her was evacuated, the Powers would proceed with the consideration of the irrigation projects for her advantage and of financial assistance.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[26245] No. 136.

Sir Edward Grey to Tewfik Pasha.

HIS Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Turkish Ambassador, and has the honour to state that, on the receipt of his Highness's note of the 1st May, he caused enquiry to be made by His Majesty's Minister at Sophia respecting the property of Moslem refugees in territories occupied by Bulgaria.

A despatch has now been received from Sir H. Bax-Ironside, transmitting copy of a note from the Bulgarian Government in reply to his enquiries on this subject.

In this note it is stated that no department of the Bulgarian Government has ever given any order to seize personal or real property, or to consider it as the property of the Bulgarian State.

When in November last the Bulgarian Ministry of Commerce learnt that the population of certain districts had begun to cultivate lands belonging to fugitive Mussulmans, the Ministry thought it right to do its utmost to regularise this state of affairs by the conclusion of leases with the cultivators.

The measures, however, taken by the Bulgarian authorities were, it is added, solely designed to safeguard the interests of the proprietors, and to those of them who have returned to their property restitution thereof has been made. The only exception made is in certain cases, where, on account of arrangements made with temporary occupants, the proprietors will only re-enter into full possession of their lands after harvest time.

As to the personal property abandoned by fugitive Mussulmans, the Bulgarian authorities have given orders for its collection and preservation so far as this has been possible, and when the goods were not of a perishable nature.

Foreign Office, June 11, 1913.

[26960] No. 137.

Communication from the Russian Vice-Consul at Scutari.—(Communicated by Count Benckendorff, June 12.)

SUR la rive est du lac de Scutari, à une distance de 5 à 7 kilom. de la ville du même nom, se trouve situé un village serbe du nom de Vraka, composé d'environ 120 à 150 maisons avec à peu près 1,000 habitants. Il a une église et une école. Il serait désirable de laisser ce village au Monténégro. Dans ce cas, la frontière projetée entre l'Albanie et le Monténégro serait tracée ainsi : à partir du village Zoghi sur la rive ouest du lac, la ligne frontière traverserait le lac, en se dirigeant en droite ligne sur Vraka. Après avoir contourné ce village au sud, elle atteindrait la crête de montagnes la plus proche et en la suivant le long du lac se dirigerait vers l'extrémité de la baie Litcheni-Hoti.

Il s'ensuivrait de cette modification de la frontière l'acquisition par le Monténégro de certains avantages économiques, notamment :—

1. Le Monténégro recevrait une bande de terre fertile à partir de la baie Litcheni-Hoti jusqu'au village de Vraka inclusivement.
2. A la suite de cette modification il gagnerait par l'asséchement du lac, qui dans cette partie est très peu profond.

Il est bien entendu que tous les détails de cette modification de la frontière ne pourront être établis que par une commission *ad hoc*.

Scutari, le 14 (27) *mai*, 1913.

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[26833] No. 138.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 304.)
Sir,

Paris, June 11, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, replying to the communication which I addressed to him under the instructions conveyed to me in your despatch No. 341 of the 2nd instant, informs me that the question of the exportation of tobacco grown in Macedonia, in which various French firms are interested, has engaged the attention of the French Government for several months past. The French representatives at Sophia and Athens were instructed to enquire as to the intentions of the Bulgarian and Greek Governments respectively in regard to the matter.

M. Pichon states that the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs informed the French Minister at Sophia that for the present no modification of the laws now in force in the kingdom could be introduced in respect of the new provinces; that these laws were in a great measure favourable to the exportation of tobacco; and that the Bulgarian Government, so far from contemplating any restriction of the exportation, intended to encourage it by every means.

As regards the Greek Government, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed the French Minister at Athens that no step has as yet been taken in the matter, but that the question will be subsequently considered. M. Coromilas nevertheless gave M. Deville to understand that measures would be taken in order that existing interests might be respected.

M. Pichon, in communicating the above information, expresses the wish that his Department may be kept informed of any representations on the subject which His Majesty's Government may eventually make at Sophia and Athens.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE.

[26830] No. 139.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 274.)
(Telegraphic.) R.

Constantinople, June 11, 1913.

MY telegram No. 272 of to-day.

Minister for Foreign Affairs been appointed Grand Vizier *ad interim* as well as Minister for Foreign Affairs. Minister of Marine has been appointed Minister of War.

Complete order prevails, but stringent orders of martial law have been applied.

[26831] No. 140.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 206.)
(Telegraphic.)

Sophia, June 11, 1913.

MY telegram No. 193 of 1st June.

Emperor of Russia telegraphed to the King of the Bulgarians, stating that he would arrange all questions existing between Bulgaria and Servia, and that Bulgaria should at once demobilise.

Answer has just been returned to the effect that Bulgaria will be willing to submit her case to Russia in so far as territory mentioned in Servian and Bulgarian treaty is concerned, but she cannot under any circumstances agree to revision of treaty; also that Servia must demobilise first.

I gather, further, that the Emperor of Russia telegraphed in the same sense to Belgrade yesterday, after the Ministerial Council had taken place there.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

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[26890] No. 141.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 211.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June* 11, 1913.

YOUR telegram No. 444 of 10th June: Albania and Ægean islands.

Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, while fully appreciating your position, would greatly deplore the adoption of second alternative which you mention.

As regards the first alternative, his Excellency is anxious to make a further effort to obtain Koritza for Greece as a set-off for her yielding about Stilos. He says that Austria's objections to Koritza going to Greece are unreasonable. Line of which he would be prepared to press acceptance at Athens would run from Stilos to Delvino and Ochrida.

While strongly desirous of such a settlement, Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs seemed at a loss as to how to obtain it. I suggested that Germany might be induced to urge moderation on Austria. He said that he had spoken in that sense to the German Ambassador here, and hoped you would do the same with German Ambassador in London.

[26954] No. 142.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 275.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 12, 1913.

MY immediately preceding telegram of 11th June.

Several arrests have been made in connection with yesterday's murder, and the authorities state that they have clue as to perpetrators. Extraordinary precautions are taken, and order is being well maintained.

Firman has been issued for entry of "Black Prince" to replace "Zealandia," but under the circumstances I would suggest that the "Zealandia" should remain for yet a few days.

[26969] No. 143.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 139.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June* 12, 1913.

I GATHER from information given at Ministry for Foreign Affairs and from Russian Minister that M. Pashitch's position has become very difficult, owing to pressure from Russia, and if war cannot be avoided he will resign, when coalition Cabinet composed of members of all parties would be formed.

King of Servia has received same telegram as King of Bulgarians from Emperor of Russia (see Sophia telegram No. 206 of 11th June), but apparently no mention is made in it of demobilisation.

Russian Minister considers situation most critical, and that only chance of preventing conflict seems to be immediate *démarche* by Powers, but Italian and German representatives have not yet received instructions similar to those communicated to me in your telegram No. 92 of 6th June.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[26970] No. 144.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June* 12, 1913.

MY telegram No. 136 of 9th June.

The Servian authorities state that, whilst main force of Bulgarian troops has retired from Valandovo, outposts nevertheless still remain on territory occupied by Servians.

Servian Minister returned to Sophia last night carrying note demanding a reply to note respecting revision of treaty, and that Bulgaria should stop concentration of troops. Should Bulgaria give an unfavourable reply Servia will denounce treaty.

(Repeated to Sophia.)

[26955] No. 145.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 212.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *St. Petersburgh, June* 12, 1913.

ALBANIA and Ægean islands.

I am communicating substance of your telegram No. 447 of 11th June in writing to Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is not accessible to-day. You will, however, meanwhile have learnt his views from my telegram No. 211 of yesterday.

He suggested further difficulty that Turkey apparently claims that, in leaving the question of the islands to the decision of the Powers, she referred only to the islands occupied by Greece.

[26968] No. 146.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 213.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June* 12, 1913.

I LEARN that an answer has been received from King of Servia to Emperor's telegram. It is on the whole satisfactory, as King of Servia says that Servia will place controversy in the hands of Russia; but it at the same time asserts Servia's claims as not being limited by exact terms of her treaty with Bulgaria.

[26980] No. 147.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 12.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Salonica, June* 12, 1913.

MY immediately preceding telegram of 11th June.

Return of King of Greece has been postponed until 16th June.

I am informed that the 8th division is being brought from Epirus.

[26816] No. 148.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 255.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, June* 12, 1913.

YOU should express to Minister for Foreign Affairs the great regret with which His Majesty's Government have heard of the assassination of the Grand Vizier and their most sincere condolence with the Sultan and with Turkey.

[26818] No. 149.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir R. Paget.

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 12, 1913.

MR. O'BEIRNE'S telegram No. 209 of 11th June repeated to you.

You should urge upon Servian Government that for Premiers to go to St. Petersburgh in view of Russian willingness to arbitrate seems most desirable. If war between the allies is not avoided, there is no certainty that all the Great Powers will preserve the attitude of non-interference hitherto adopted; the question of the sanjak and other kindred questions may be reopened, and Servia may lose what she has hitherto gained by the fruits of victory. You should impress all this upon Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(Repeated to St. Petersburgh, No. 449.)

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[27093] No. 150.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.**

(No. 118.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Foreign Office, June* 12, 1913.

FOLLOWING answer given in House of Commons to-day :—

"My honourable friend has no doubt seen in the press that under a treaty between Bulgaria and Servia there is provision for the submission of certain differences to the arbitration of Russia.

"He will also have seen the appeal and the warning addressed by the Emperor of Russia to the Kings of Bulgaria and Servia. It is earnestly to be hoped that the advice thus given may be accepted.

"It is impossible to express too strongly the feelings of disappointment and disapproval with which an outbreak of war between the Balkan States, so lately allies, would be regarded by public opinion generally. It would alienate all the sympathy in Europe which has hitherto been an important contributory factor in securing an attitude of neutrality and non-interference on the part of the Great Powers, and the Balkan States must themselves be aware that if they were to fight with each other respecting the fruits of victory they would risk what they have hitherto gained in the war with Turkey."

[26818] No. 151.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 12, 1913.

I AM supporting at Belgrade and Sophia the proposal of the Russian Government that the four Premiers should go to St. Petersburgh in view of Russian willingness to arbitrate. I presume that M. Venizelos would agree.

[27085] No. 152.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 232.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 12, 1913.

I AM concerned at uncompromising attitude of Russia about the indemnity. Months ago, before Bagdad Railway negotiations were on foot, I expressed unqualified opposition at a meeting of the Ambassadors to an indemnity on the general ground that it was neither fair nor practicable. That is, or will be, the view of public opinion here, and we are definitely committed to it. When first stated, I understood that this was the view of all the Powers. I am sure none dissented. I agree that there is room for discussion as to the amount of debt that should be taken over by allies, and that this has a connection with the question of the indemnity, but if a war indemnity imposing a new heavy burden on Turkey is to be pressed for at Paris I am bound by previous declarations to oppose it. I hope Minister for Foreign Affairs will be able to prevent the question assuming this form. I have instructed Sir G. Buchanan to explain the situation at St. Petersburgh.

(Repeated to St. Petersburgh, No. 450.)

[26818] No. 153.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 120.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 12, 1913.

MY telegram No. 94 of to-day to Sir R. Paget repeated to you.

You can inform Bulgarian Government of first sentence.

You should also say that Servian Chargé d'Affaires has communicated contents of a note addressed yesterday to Bulgarian Government proposing immediate reduction

* Also to Sir R. Paget (No. 95), Sir F. Elliot (No. 83), and Count de Salis (No. 69).

of forces on either side to one-fourth of their actual strength, and that I earnestly hope this proposal may be accepted.

(Repeated to Belgrade, No. 96, and St. Petersburgh, No. 451.)

[27731] No. 154.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 196.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 12, 1913.

I TOLD the Turkish Ambassador to-day of the Greek complaint that Osman Nizamy Pasha, after having promised to sign a protocol with Greece alone, had refused to do so.

The Ambassador told me that what it had been agreed to sign was a promise that the *ante bellum status quo* should be restored ; but at the last moment the Greeks had asked that it should be the pre-1897 *status quo*, and this had naturally been refused.

I said that at the conference in St. James's Palace at which I was present it was the *ante bellum status quo* for which the Greeks had asked, and which I understood Osman Nizamy Pasha was ready to sign. If the request had now been changed for the pre-1897 *status quo*, I had no more to say.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[27732] No. 155.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 197.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 12, 1913.

THE Turkish Ambassador spoke to me to-day about the refusal of the National Bank of Turkey to take part in the advance to Turkey. The French and Germans were participating. It was not a question of the amount that the Bank should undertake, but, if British finance was left out of these things, the tendency would be for other things, such as railways, and so forth, to go to the groups that lent money.

I replied that I had seen Sir Henry Babington Smith this morning. I had expressed a little disappointment that the National Bank had not taken part in the advance, and he had told me in effect that it was not financially attractive. I had not been in a position to urge the National Bank to take part in it, because one could not urge a bank to do something that was not financially attractive without incurring obligations.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[23675] No. 156.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 364.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 12, 1913.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* relative to demand by the Greek authorities at present established in Samos for the payment of sums due by the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt to the Government of the Principality.

It appears to me that, as regards the recent war, the Government of Samos, though the island is autonomous, must be treated as in the same position as the Government of Turkey.

If, therefore, this money had been paid by the Ottoman Public Debt, and was actually in Samos, the Greek forces in occupation of that island would have been entitled to take possession of it under article 53 of The Hague regulations as to warfare on land.

If Greece eventually becomes Sovereign of Samos she will be entitled to the money as part of the assets of the transferred territory unless some special provision is made

* No. 418.

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to the contrary. But till this takes place she would only be entitled to this money if she could obtain possession of it under article 53, already referred to, for I am of opinion that she is not entitled to collect, outside occupied territory, debts due to the Government of that territory.

I have to request your Excellency to inform the French Government of the opinion expressed above, and to enquire their views as to whether the question as to the destination of this money in existing circumstances is one which could properly be decided by the international commission now sitting at Paris.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[26245] No. 157.

Sir Edward Grey to M. Cambon.

HIS Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the French Ambassador, and, with reference to his Excellency's memorandum of the 16th May, and to the reply sent thereto on the 28th May respecting the alleged confiscation of the property of fugitive Mussulmans by the Bulgarian Government, has the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note addressed by the Bulgarian Government to His Majesty's Minister at Sophia in answer to his enquiries on this subject.*

Sir E. Grey would be glad to be favoured with M. Cambon's views upon this communication.

Foreign Office, June 12, 1913.

[26987] No. 158.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 305.)

Sir, *Paris, June* 12, 1913.

I DULY informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in accordance with the instructions conveyed to me by your despatch No. 344 of the 4th instant, that His Majesty's Government, although adhering to the view that it was undesirable that the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt should be represented on the International Financial Commission assembled at Paris, were of opinion that the Debt Administration might advantageously be given an opportunity of making their views known to the Commission through a financial expert to be selected by the Administration to proceed to Paris, whom the members of the Commission would be able to consult on all points in regard to which they might require information.

I have the honour to acquaint you that M. Pichon informs me in reply to my communication that the French Government are alive to the advantage which the Commission would have in obtaining from the Ottoman Debt Administration the information which it might require in the course of its labours. The French Government consider, however, that the adoption of the proposal above referred to is open to some objection, in view of the fact that the numerous bodies interested in the other questions with which the Commission is called upon to deal would undoubtedly claim a similar privilege.

M. Pichon goes on to observe that satisfaction has already been given to the wishes of the Ottoman Debt Administration, not only by the fact that three of the delegates of the foreign bondholders on the Council of the Debt are sitting at the Financial Commission, but also by the presence in Paris of the Contrôleur général of the Ottoman Public Debt, who has been authorised to attend the meetings of the Commission in the capacity of technical assistant to the Secretariat.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE.

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* See enclosure in No. 81.

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[27017] No. 159.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 208.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June* 12, 1913.

SERVIAN Government have handed in note suggesting that Bulgaria and Servia should gradually reduce their effectives to a quarter of present armies. In case of refusal, Bulgaria will be held responsible for all untoward incidents.

Immediate answer is requested.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[27102] No. 160.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 276.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, June* 13, 1913.

PRINCE SAID HALIM definitely appointed Grand Vizier.

Sheikh-ul-Islam and remaining members of Cabinet maintained.

[27123] No. 161.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 277.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 13, 1913.

MY telegram No. 275 of 12th June.

Court-martial has effected some hundreds of arrests in connection with assassination of late Grand Vizier.

It is not clear whether murder was a result of an opposition plot or an act of revenge for assassination of General Nazim Pasha at the Porte on 23rd January. Despite denials, there would seem to have been participation of a section of military element.

Yesterday a Maltese sent word to consulate-general to the effect that house in which he resided was under police supervision.

Official sent to consulate-general to enquire found lessee was a British subject; that there were three Turkish lodgers, whose names he did not ascertain. This morning consulate-general received request from police for consular authority to search house, "in which some individuals were hiding." As matter might be a case of political fugitives, consulate-general referred to me, and in virtue of instructions contained in your despatch No. 33, Treaty, of 31st August, 1908, it was decided to reply to the police asking for names of individuals in question and charges against them according to Ottoman law. Before consul's reply reached police, force of gendarmes and military assembled in neighbourhood of house, and on their approach, according to version of head of police, Turkish lodgers fired and wounded three soldiers or police agents. According to version of relative of lessee, police beat at door and insisted on entering, when lessee and his wife ran away. A fusillade ensued, one of three Turkish lodgers being reported wounded.

It is stated that lodgers were officers, and one of them directly connected with murder of late Grand Vizier.

As regards technical violation of domicile, it is difficult to form an opinion until facts have been more clearly established, but presumably if first shots were from house subsequent proceedings can hardly be regarded as an infraction of domicile.

[27121] No. 162.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June* 13, 1913.

YOUR telegram No. 84 of 12th June.

M. Venizelos has already agreed to go to St. Petersburgh if the other Premiers do. He would be delighted that Russian influence and mediation should be employed in

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favour of a settlement. But he says that public opinion here would never admit single-handed Russian arbitration between Greece and a Slav State. He would readily agree to arbitration of England alone between Greece and Bulgaria.

I pointed out that since Russia is to arbitrate between Servia and Bulgaria a parallel arbitration, giving, possibly, conflicting results, would be impracticable. M. Venizelos then said that arbitration of any two Powers (except Austria and Italy, who are too directly interested) would be best, for instance Russia and Germany, with England as umpire.

M. Venizelos said he had taken many responsibilities, but he could not take that of accepting Russia as sole arbitrator, though he fully admitted her friendly attitude towards Greece. Out of delicacy he had not made his position clear to Russian Minister, and with his permission I have done so. The responsibilities he alluded to are, no doubt, having allowed concentration of Bulgarian troops to be completed, whereby Greece is in a much less favourable military position than a month ago. He takes gloomiest view of possibility of maintaining peace.

There are no questions at issue with Servia.

The view of my Russian colleague is that arbitration must be political, not merely juridical, namely, that object of it must be to establish a satisfactory balance of power.

[27122] No. 163.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 75. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June 13, 1913.*

BULGARIA and Servia.

Russian Minister, who throughout has urged on Minister for Foreign Affairs the folly of Roumania's bargaining her neutrality against territorial concessions from Bulgaria, and thus freeing Bulgaria's hands for attacking Servia, thinks that Austrian Minister, who saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday morning, may have made proposals on Bulgaria's behalf for a bargain of the kind. When the Russian Minister had seen the Minister for Foreign Affairs at the weekly diplomatic reception on Tuesday he had noticed less trace than at previous interviews of the intention of bargaining with Bulgaria, whereas at an interview yesterday afternoon he found the idea of a bargain again prominent with his Excellency.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, however, said to the Russian Minister that, until a war broke out, Roumania would do her utmost in the cause of peace. He spoke of making a communication at Sophia and Belgrade in the sense of the recent circular to the Powers. If war broke out she would mobilise, but nothing had been decided as to her subsequent course. She would act as necessary for the protection of her interests.

(Sent to Sophia and Belgrade.)

[27125] No. 164.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 141.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 13, 1913.*

FOLLOWING from Monastir, No. 24 :—

"Local representative of the Servian Ministry for Foreign Affairs informs me that officer commanding Servian battalions which retired from Valandova before Bulgarian regiment from Doiran has been superseded for not fighting, and that general orders have been sent to Servian officers actively to resist Bulgarians in similar circumstances."

[27126] No. 165.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 142.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 13, 1913.*

SERBO-BULGARIAN conflict.

Owing to indisposition, I was unable to see Prime Minister myself to-day, but I

sent him a memorandum repeating substance of your telegram No. 94 of 12th June by one of legation staff. The reply he sent me was that he thanks you for the interest which your message evinces, and that he would be quite prepared to proceed to St. Petersburgh and submit Serbo-Bulgarian differences to arbitration, provided that it be understood that the treaty—in which Bulgaria failed to fulfil her part during the war—be set aside, and that the arbitration should not be governed by the stipulations therein contained, but should be entirely independent of them and based on present circumstances; that it is of vital importance to Servia to retain right bank of the Vardar, and also ensure by a coterminous frontier with Greece that her commerce should not be strangled by Bulgaria and Austria; furthermore, that should Servia now be thwarted in her legitimate desire, her only alternative would be to put herself under ægis of Austria.

The danger of situation is increased by feeling here that if war is avoided now it is only postponed for a year or two, that situation would then not be as favourable for Servia, and that there would be the expenses of mobilisation afresh. On the other hand, the Servians have no doubt been considerably impressed by statement in Emperor of Russia's telegram to King of Servia, namely, that Russia would visit her displeasure on the State which first broke the peace.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[27127] No. 166.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 143.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 13, 1913.*

SERVIAN and Bulgarian demobilisation.

My colleagues, having received instructions, have taken action in accordance with your telegram No. 92 of 6th June. As a reply, Prime Minister handed representatives copy of note, sent by Servian Government to Bulgarian Government, proposing reduction of their effectives to one-fourth of present strength, already communicated to you by Servian Chargé d'Affaires.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[27129] No. 167.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 209.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 13, 1913.*

AS the new Ministry is not yet formed, I saw "chef de cabinet" and carried out instructions conveyed in your telegram No. 120 of 12th June.

He told me that he would not fail to inform King of Bulgarians of the wishes therein expressed.

(Confidential.)

"Chef de cabinet" stated he thought situation critical, that Bulgaria had only agreed to arbitration of Russia within lines of the treaty, and that she could not accept any revision; also that Bulgaria might agree to demobilisation, but only on condition that the disputed territory were occupied by Bulgarian and Servian troops in equal proportions.

He said also that the new Cabinet was practically formed and that M. Danef would be President of the Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs, and that Bulgarian Minister in London would be Minister of the Interior, present Minister of the Interior being proposed as Minister in London.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[26822] No. 168.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 233.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 13, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 75 of 11th June.

I do not believe Koritza can be obtained for Greece.

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[26321] No. 169.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.**

(No. 367.)

Foreign Office, June 13, 1913.

Sir,

I INFORMED the Ambassadors at the meeting of the 5th June that it was necessary for us now to withdraw the warships that we had sent to the Mediterranean on the outbreak of the Balkan war, because they were needed for training and manœuvres in home waters. We could not withdraw the ships without the men, and we therefore intended to withdraw our 300 sailors from Scutari and replace them by an equivalent number of soldiers under a major or lieutenant-colonel. This was a matter simply for our own convenience. It meant nothing more than a change of the personnel that we had in Scutari. Admiral Burney's command was to expire very soon, so that it was not necessary for him to be withdrawn, and he could remain at Scutari for the present.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[27182] No. 170.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 129.)

Athens, June 7, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your circular telegram No. 246 of yesterday to Constantinople, conveying the resolution of the meeting of Ambassadors in favour of calling upon the belligerents to reduce the war strength of their armies.

The Russian Government has been working energetically in this sense for some days past, and I understand that the principle has already been accepted by the allies, the Bulgarian Government having proposed that the reduction should be to one-third or one-quarter of present strengths.

M. Coromilas has told me that inasmuch as the Bulgarian Government claim to have the fantastic number of 500,000 men under arms—a figure which there is no means of controlling—the reduction on that basis would leave them with 166,000 or 125,000 men, while the Greeks would only keep 70,000 or 52,000. The Greek Government have therefore asked the Bulgarian Government to state a figure to which they would be prepared to reduce their forces. In making the proportionate reduction on their side the Greek Government claim that only the troops in Macedonia, not those in Epirus, should be taken into account, the latter being required for services with which the Bulgarians have no concern.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

[27207] No. 171.

Note addressed to Bulgarian Government by Servian Government, June 11, 1913.—(*Communicated by M. Grouitch, June* 14, 1913.)

(Traduction.)

LA concentration de l'armée bulgare sur la frontière serbe compromet de plus en plus la solution pacifique de la question du partage du condominium entre les États alliés, ainsi que de toutes les autres questions qui intéressent les alliés et pour le règlement pacifique desquelles un agrément de principe a été conclu lors de l'entrevue des deux Ministres-Présidents à Tzaribrod le 12 mai courant (o.s.). Cette concentration militaire bulgare non seulement n'a pas cessé après l'entrevue de Tzaribrod, mais à partir de ce moment même elle a été continuée avec encore plus d'activité et de rapidité, ce qui lui donne un caractère d'autant plus sérieux et met en danger la solution pacifique du litige, trompant ainsi en même temps les espoirs que les alliés ainsi que l'Europe avaient fondés sur les résultats de l'entrevue de Tzaribrod. Ce danger est arrivé en ce moment à son point culminant, parce que la Bulgarie a écarté l'agrément conclu à Tzaribrod en vue de la réunion des quatre Ministres-Présidents et

* Also to Mr. O'Beirne (No. 219), Sir R. Rodd (No. 153), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 122), and Sir E. Goschen (No. 186).

parce que, simultanément avec la concentration de l'armée bulgare se produisent des attaques répétées des patrouilles bulgares contre les patrouilles serbes, ainsi que des incursions des troupes bulgares dans la zone occupée par l'armée serbe, ce qui augmente l'irritation dans les esprits et l'opinion publique déjà surexcités.

Toutes ces circonstances tendent à créer chez le Gouvernement serbe la conviction que le Gouvernement bulgare, dans son attitude à l'égard de la Serbie, ne s'inspire pas des sentiments de solidarité qui devraient exister entre alliés et n'est pas non plus animé du désir d'épuiser toutes les tentatives pour un règlement pacifique des questions litigieuses.

C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement serbe espère que toute concentration ultérieure de l'armée bulgare sur la frontière serbe sera immédiatement suspendue, et il propose que la Serbie et la Bulgarie réduisent de suite et en même temps leurs armées à un quart de leur effectif. Un agrément dans ce sens constituerait, aux yeux de l'alliance balkanique et de l'Europe, la première mesure efficace et fournirait la meilleure preuve de la détermination des États alliés d'arriver à une solution pacifique des questions en litige.

[27175] No. 172.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 310.)

Paris, June 13, 1913.

Sir,

I HAD an interview this evening with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in order to make representations to him to the effect of your telegram No. 232 of yesterday evening on the subject of the attitude of the Russian Government in regard to the demand of the Balkan allies for indemnities of war from Turkey.

I told M. Pichon that you were concerned at the uncompromising attitude of Russia; that long ago, before entering into negotiations on the subject of the Bagdad Railway, you had at a meeting of the Ambassadors expressed your unqualified opposition to an indemnity on the general ground that it was neither fair nor practicable, and public opinion in England would take that view of the matter. None of the Ambassadors had dissented from the opinion which you had expressed, and His Majesty's Government are committed to it. If, therefore, a war indemnity imposing a new and onerous charge on Turkey were to be pressed for in the financial commission of Paris you would be bound to oppose it most strongly. You therefore trusted that his Excellency would prevent the question assuming such a form by energetic representations at St. Petersburgh.

I urged on M. Pichon that, though it might be an advantage to Russia in a future, perhaps a distant one, to weaken Turkey now, it could not be to the interests of either France or England that what remained of the Turkish Empire after the conclusion of peace should be without the pecuniary means of reorganising its administration and its military forces and starting a fresh life.

M. Pichon described the policy of the French Government to be not to crush Turkey by insupportable burdens, and they are opposed to indemnities, as war indemnities, to the Balkan allies, but they think it possible that a compromise may be found which, while not allowing such indemnities, may alleviate the allied States from too large a share of the Ottoman Debt.

I told his Excellency that you admit that there is room for discussion as to the amount of the Debt to be taken over by the allies. He said that the objects of the French Government in regard to the future of Turkey are the same as those of His Majesty's Government. They desire the Ottoman Empire to have the means of reorganising and defending itself so that there may not be a question of the disposal of its territories in Asia Minor.

M. Pichon finally said that he would consider what could be done to moderate the attitude of the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE.

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[27156] No. 173.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June 13, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 67 of 6th June.

[Group undecypherable] German and Italian Ministers are still without instructions.

As far as I know, troops here were disbanded, except about 3,000 men in newly acquired districts. But in the last two days a large number have been mobilised. Minister for Foreign Affairs admitted to me this morning that a force, which he assured me did not represent an increase of 6,000 men, was being sent to Ipek and neighbourhood. They would take no part in hostilities, but would be there to preserve order, should troubles arise among Albanians on a weakening of Servian forces in those parts.

Popular sympathy is strongly on the side of Servians, but it may be that by despatching this force the King is only aiming at an opportunity to improve his own position and territorial claims at their expense. I believe him to be in close communication with the Bulgarian Government. He may also be glad to mobilise a force in view of difficulties which threaten him from opposition of Albanians which are to be incorporated in Montenegro, especially Hoti and Gruda.

Russian military attaché tells me confidentially that he estimates force mobilised at about double the number mentioned by Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Crown Prince has left here quietly for Paris, and perhaps London.

[27281] No. 174.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 279.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 14, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 277 of yesterday.

From statements received from owner of house it would appear that police forced their way into house before any firing took place, also before reply had been received from consulate, and consequently without assistance of consular delegate.

I to-day called Grand Vizier's serious attention to matter, giving him all details and evidence of violation of domicile, saying that I had reported case to you, and was awaiting instructions as to demands to be made, but in meanwhile I hoped satisfaction would be given in the shape of a formal apology, as in a recent somewhat analogous Austrian case, and damage done to house, &c., by police made good.

[27273] No. 175.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 76.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June 14, 1913.*

I LEARN that reserves of three army corps were to have been called out yesterday, but that this measure has been postponed in consequence of the Emperor of Russia's telegrams to the King of the Bulgarians and the King of Servia.

(Sent to Sophia and Belgrade.)

[27286] No. 176.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 210.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 14, 1913.*

CABINET has been formed on lines of my immediately preceding telegram of 13th June.

[27287] No. 177.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 211.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 14, 1913.*

BY order of his Government Greek Minister has to-day addressed to Bulgarian Government a note calling their serious attention to the concentration of Bulgarian troops on the newly agreed upon line of demarcation, and desiring that in the interests of peaceful settlement it might be discontinued.

Note further proposed simultaneous reduction of forces in Macedonia.

[27289] No. 178.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 14, 1913.*

SIR H. BAX-IRONSIDE'S telegram No. 209 of 13th June.

There seems to be no likelihood whatever of Servia agreeing to Bulgarian proposal concerning joint occupation of disputed territory as a condition for demobilisation.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[27121] No. 179.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 14, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 91 of 13th June: Relations amongst allies.

I think first step is to go to St. Petersburgh if others agree. If differences cannot be adjusted there and Greece desires a separate arbitration such as that of Russia, Germany, and England, or of any three Powers, it would be for M. Venizelos to propose this to Bulgarian Prime Minister; we could only participate in an arbitration that was asked for by both parties to a dispute.

[27290] No. 180.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 145.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 15, 1913.*

SERVIA and Bulgaria.

The tone in Servia has undergone a very decided change since receipt by King of Servia of telegram from Emperor of Russia.

Prime Minister in Skupshtina made a statement to effect that Servian policy was unchanged, and that, if it came to be changed, this would not be done without previous consultation with Skupshtina. This in itself seems to imply that a departure from altogether uncompromising attitude hitherto maintained may perhaps be meditated.

The Government organ in its issue of yesterday assumes that Emperor's arbitration will take into consideration efforts and sacrifices of Servia during war, and not restrict itself to basis of treaty. This also implies that Servia accepts arbitration without imposing previous conditions.

The public almost appears to consider possibility of war at an end now that Emperor of Russia has intervened.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[27291] No. 181.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Belgrade, June 15, 1913.*

M. PASHITCH has tendered his resignation, but I learn that it has not yet been accepted by the King.

(Sent to Sophia.)

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[27325] No. 182.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 187.)
Sir, *St. Petersburgh, June* 11, 1913.

BOTH the Bulgarian Minister and M. Delcassé, whom I saw in the course of the day, were strongly of opinion that the best, if not the only, hope of averting a conflict between Servia and Bulgaria now lay in the Premiers of the allied countries coming at once to St. Petersburgh without any preliminary meeting at Salonica or elsewhere. M. Delcassé argued that if the Premiers had met and separated without finding a solution, the fact of their doing so would tend to make M. Sazonof's eventual task all the more difficult. M. Bobcheff agreed with this view, and seemed inclined himself to urge M. Sazonof to insist in the strongest way at Belgrade and Sophia on the Premiers coming here forthwith.

I spoke to M. Sazonof of this idea when I saw him this afternoon. He said that he had already intimated that Russia was prepared to arbitrate between Bulgaria and Servia. If the two countries preferred to discuss their differences in the first instance between themselves and to come to Russia afterwards as a sort of Court of Appeal, it was difficult for Russia to insist on their submitting the controversy directly to her. Russia might seem to be pursuing some ends of her own, and he was afraid of a refusal on the part of Servia, which would place the Russian Government in an awkward position.

He would, however, be extremely grateful if you could see your way to urge the proposed course on the two allies; and he particularly hoped that you would say at Belgrade that the conduct of the Servian Government was giving ground for the suspicion that it was they who desired to evade the submission of the controversy to arbitration. I had the honour to inform you of M. Sazonof's request by my telegram No. 209 of to-day.

The Bulgarian Minister told me nominally in strict confidence, though this may probably already be well known to you, that Bulgaria was prepared to abandon the whole of the so-called contested zone, with the possible exception of Struga, to the Serbs, but that this was the limit of the concessions which they could make. M. Sazonof seemed much depressed by a letter which he had received from M. Pashitch, from which he gathered that Servia really intended to maintain her most extreme pretensions, including Monastir and the right bank of the Vardar. In that case his Excellency considered a conflict inevitable.

I have, &c.
HUGH O'BEIRNE.

[27326] No. 183.

Mr. O'Beirne to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 188.)
Sir, *St. Petersburgh, June* 12, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the official text in French of the telegram which, as reported in my telegram No. 205 of the 10th instant, the Emperor of Russia addressed on the 8th instant to the Bulgarian and Servian Sovereigns.

In speaking to me of this telegram on the 9th instant M. Sazonof referred particularly to its concluding passage, which, he remarked, without expressly stating that Russia would intervene against the side guilty of commencing hostilities, let it be understood that she might do so. I gather that, should a conflict occur, M. Sazonof would wish to leave the parties to it under the apprehension of Russian intervention, so that he would probably not be disposed to commit himself to a declaration of non-interference as suggested in the concluding paragraph of your telegram No. 443 of the 9th June. He had, however, when I spoke to him on this subject, evidently not yet fully considered the question of Russia's attitude in the event of a conflict, which he still trusted might be averted. At the same time he was clear on the point that joint action on the part of the five Powers to impose peace, or joint action by Austria and Russia, were equally not to be thought of. I asked him whether he supposed that Austria was encouraging Bulgaria to persist in an uncompromising attitude. He replied that he knew as a fact that she was doing so, and that Austria's present policy was to bring about a combination between herself, Bulgaria, and Roumania.

When I saw his Excellency again yesterday afternoon he said that no reply had yet been received to the Emperor's telegram.

I have, &c.
HUGH O'BEIRNE.

Enclosure in No. 183.

Telegram sent to Kings of Bulgaria and Servia by the Emperor of Russia on June 8, 1913.

LA nouvelle de l'entrevue, projetée à Salonique, entre les Ministres-Présidents des quatre pays alliés qui pourraient ensuite se rencontrer à Saint-Pétersbourg, m'a fait le plus grand plaisir, cette intention semblant indiquer le désir des États balkaniques de s'entendre et de consolider l'alliance qui jusqu'à présent a donné les résultats les plus brillants.

C'est avec un sentiment pénible que j'apprends que cette décision n'a pas encore été mise à exécution et que les États balkaniques paraissent se préparer à une guerre fratricide, capable de ternir la gloire qu'ils ont acquise en commun.

Dans un moment aussi grave j'en appelle directement à votre Majesté, ainsi que m'y obligent mon droit et mon devoir. C'est à la Russie que les deux peuples, bulgare et serbe, ont remis par l'acte de leur alliance la décision de tout différend relatif à l'application des termes du traité et des conventions qui s'y réfèrent. Je demande donc à votre Majesté de rester fidèle aux obligations contractées par elle et de s'en rapporter à la Russie pour la solution du différend actuel entre la Bulgarie et la Serbie.

Considérant les fonctions d'arbitre non pas comme une prérogative, mais comme une obligation pénible à laquelle je ne saurais me soustraire, je crois devoir prévenir votre Majesté qu'une guerre entre les alliés ne pourrait me laisser indifférent.

Je tiens à établir que l'État qui aurait commencé cette guerre en serait responsable devant la cause slave et que je me réserve toute liberté quant à l'attitude qu'adoptera la Russie vis-à-vis des résultats éventuels d'une lutte aussi criminelle.—NICOLAS.

[27369] No. 184.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 518.)
Sir, *Constantinople, June* 12, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from Vice-Consul Greig, Monastir, reporting on relations between Bulgarian inhabitants of the Monastir district and the Greek and Servian authorities.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 184.

Vice-Consul Greig to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 34. Confidential.)
Sir, *Monastir, May* 31, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following further information concerning the relations of the exarchist inhabitants of this district and the Greek and Servian authorities :—

The Position in the Greek Districts.

(*a.*) I learn from the Bulgarian Archbishop of Monastir that the number of exarchists arrested, mainly on suspicion of taking part in seditious propaganda, in the Florina and Castoria districts now exceeds 2,000

(*b.*) The Prefect of Florina informs me that four out of five of a band of Bulgarian ex-Comitajis, who recently took to the hills, have been caught by the Greek and Servian gendarmery near Buff, a village about 7 miles north-west of Florina, occupied by both Greek and Servian detachments.

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ALL WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE

The Position in the Servian Districts.

(*a.*) I am informed by the Prefect of Monastir that, besides the 300 rifles, 6 live bombs were found during the search made at Tsapari after the events described on p. 2 of my despatch No. 31 of the 25th instant. In the same despatch it was reported that a number of arrests of Bulgarians were made at the time in the same village. As it is now public rumour that some of the arrested persons have been quietly murdered since their arrival here, and there may be reason to refer to them again, I give their names as communicated to me by the Bulgarian Archbishop of Monastir: Risté Kotef, Risté Kolef, Petré Kolef, Nasi Naidof, Zonché Petrof. All of them are said to have long had dealings with the Internal Committee.

In the present case the rumours of secret execution are based only on the facts that the relatives of the arrested men have not succeeded in obtaining permission to see them, and that a drunken officer uttered words interpreted to imply as much. The report is readily believed because of other unexplained incidents reported in my previous despatches. It is being busily exploited by Austrian agents.

(*b.*) The local authorities have made it known that the authors of the murder of the three Bulgars of the Penjerkof family reported on p. 3 of my despatch No. 31 of the 25th instant have been arrested. They state that they are a gipsy, who was recently dismissed from employment by Penjerkof, and two Moslems of the lowest class, and that goods stolen at the same time have been discovered in their possession. Unfortunately, there have been other uncontradicted reports of official violence, and suspicion has become so deeply rooted in the public mind that no one here believes this announcement, especially as the authorities are maintaining complete silence as to the names of the arrested persons.

(*c.*) I have received the following further details from the Bulgarian Archbishop of Monastir:—

1. The inhabitants of Krushevo are forbidden to go outside the town for the purposes of agriculture or commerce or to obtain charcoal. They are not allowed to emigrate, and are consequently reduced to great poverty.

(It is true that emigration is being prevented in both the Servian and Greek districts. In the Servian districts all persons wishing to travel have to obtain a "gozvola" or pass, which is often refused. I am informed that applicants for passes are frequently kept waiting so long that they finally give up the attempt. I believe passes have, in some cases, been withheld until the applicants have consented to add to their names the Servian suffix "itch.")

2. The authorities are doing their utmost to sever all relations between the exarchist authorities and population. Hence, the priests of Sredno Eghri and Mogila (Monastir) have been forbidden to visit the exarchist Archbishop's palace. Sentinels placed at its gates prevent the villagers from entering.

(My information corroborates this. It is part of the policy of isolation by which three things are aimed at:—

(1.) The destruction of exarchist influence and of national sentiment amongst the Bulgars.

(2.) The thwarting of the suspected intrigues of the committee.

(3.) The prevention of publication of facts.

Sredno Eghri and Mogila have always been centres of Bulgarian intrigue, and therefore they are receiving particular attention at present (*cf.*, paragraphs (*r*) and (*s*) in my despatch No. 31 of the 25th instant).

3. An official of the commune of Belatzerkva has forbidden the inhabitants to talk about Bulgaria or to write to emigrants in America except in Serb.

(I have no information about this. It would be quite in keeping with Servian policy.)

4. On the 22nd April at Krchevo the ancient Bulgarian monastery of Pritchista was seized by the authorities, who imprisoned the Bulgarian superior and appointed in his stead a Servian priest. The furniture of the monastery was sold in the market.

(My information corroborates this generally.)

5. On the 24th April Lazar Jossifof, a Bulgarian ex-Comitaji, of Lazaropole (Dibra), learning that the Servian authorities were about to search his house, fled from the village to the Krchevo district, but was caught at Dolentsi, brought back to Dibra, and there murdered with a bayonet thrust, his body being thrown into the Drin. His brothers learnt of his fate from certain Turkish gendarmes at Dibra. On applying to

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[27407] No. 185*.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received June* 16.)

(Confidential.)

Admiralty, June 15, 1913.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of a telegram, dated the 14th June, from the vice-admiral, second in command, Mediterranean fleet (Vice-Admiral Cecil Burney, K.C.B.).

I am, &c.
W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Enclosure in No. 185*.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.

June 14, 1913.

(Telegraphic.)

ACCORDING to Malissor chiefs, Montenegrin troops are arriving at Hoti, and if they do not withdraw at once the Hoti, Kastrati, Klemeni, and Skreli tribes will rise against them.

I am endeavouring to restrain tribes from any hostile act, and I have requested His Majesty's Minister at Cettinjé to enquire from Montenegrin Government as to the presence of troops in Hoti.

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the authorities for news, they were told—"Ask the Drin where he is. We will teach you to spread sedition."

About the same time there disappeared as well one Kirsté Sileanof, of Gari, who was Jossifof's partner in the corn trade.

(I have no information about this.)

I have, &c.
C. A. GREIG.

[27371] No. 185.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 520.)

Constantinople, June 12, 1913.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 507 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's consul-general at Salonica, reporting on the signature of a Græco-Servian and Græco-Bulgarian agreement.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 185.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 50.)

Salonica, June 4, 1913.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 48 of the 26th ultimo and to previous despatches on the subject of the relations existing between the allied Balkan States, I have the honour to report that, in spite of persistent rumours to the contrary effect, I believe that no more fighting has taken place between their respective troops.

On the 28th ultimo the President of the Council of Ministers arrived here from Athens and had a long audience with the King. On the 31st a special train brought General Ivanof, together with MM. Alexandropoulos, the Greek Minister at Belgrade, and Boskovitch, the Servian Minister to Greece. The two latter returned to Belgrade on the 2nd instant, after having, it is understood, signed on behalf of their respective Governments the draft of a defensive alliance against Bulgaria.

Yesterday another agreement was signed by General Ivanof and Colonel Dousmanis, of the Greek General Staff, as to which the following statement is to-day issued by the official press bureau :—

"*Une Entente provisoire gréco-bulgare.*—Un accord étant intervenu entre les deux Gouvernements de Grèce et de Bulgarie à la suite des pourparlers qui ont été engagés entre leurs représentants, M. le Colonel Dousmanis et M. le Général Ivanoff, un procès-verbal vient d'être signé par ces deux représentants déterminant une ligne de séparation entre les deux armées afin d'éviter des conflits. Cette ligne est tout à fait provisoire et ne préjuge en rien la délimitation future des frontières gréco-bulgares."

I understand that this agreement is based upon the recognition of actual occupation, each side retaining its present positions and undertaking to make no further advance pending their arrival at a definite understanding as regards a common frontier.

The situation, as a result of these two agreements, is now regarded as somewhat clearer and less strained; but there can be no doubt that the general feeling amongst the military on both sides is still strongly in favour of settling all differences definitively and immediately by the arbitrament of war.

The Greek squadron, consisting of the "Gheorghios Averoph," "Psara," "Spetsai," "Panther," and five torpedo-boats, which came into this harbour to participate in the festivities on the occasion of the King's name-day, is still here, and some 5,000 fresh troops were landed this morning.

I have, &c.
HARRY H. LAMB.

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[27494] No. 186.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June 15, 1913.*

FOLLOWING from the vice-admiral, Scutari, 14th June:—

"Malissor chiefs have just been to see me, and state Montenegrin troops are arriving in Hoti, and that all five tribes will rise against them at once. I am endeavouring to pacify them. Could it be arranged for the Montenegrin Government to withdraw their troops at once? As far as is known here no boundary has been fixed yet."

[27529] No. 187.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June 15, 1913.*

MY two preceding telegrams of 13th and 15th June.

Situation seems to me an awkward one. Malissors appear determined to oppose incorporation of the two tribes in Montenegro. If, as the vice-admiral suggests, I advise King, for sake of peace, to withdraw his troops, shall we not incur responsibility towards him should he subsequently fail to make good his claims to this territory? I am telling the vice-admiral that I have referred to you for instructions.

[27584] No. 188.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 92. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 15, 1913.*

THE Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs desires me to tell you, for your own information, not yet for the Ambassadors' meeting, that if you are quite convinced that Italy will not give way about the coast of Epirus, Greece will consent to the frontier starting from Cape Stilos and leaving a strip of coast to Albania, in the hope that this concession will facilitate the award to Greece of the valley of the Drin, Premeti, and Korytsa. If further difficulties arise about these places he hopes that you will insist on commission of enquiry.

The abandonment of Khimara, and especially of the commercial outlet of Janina at Santi Quaranta, is a great sacrifice which he hopes will be placed to the credit of Greece in consideration of the question of the islands. The Greek Government only consented to it in recognition of your inestimable efforts in their behalf and in order to facilitate your task.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs will inform the French Minister.

[27320] No. 189.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 93.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 15, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 82 of 6th June.

Austrian Government decline, for reasons which will be communicated to you by the Austrian Ambassador, to join representations in favour of reduction of forces. Greek Government, however, made a proposal to the Bulgarian Government to that effect two or three days ago.

[27334] No. 190.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 15, 1913.*

PRINCE NICHOLAS of Greece has left Salonica for St. Petersburgh to state Greek case to Emperor of Russia.

[27465] No. 191.

Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty June 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *June 15, 1913.*

NO representatives of Gouda tribe present at meeting of Malissor chiefs held this morning.

Malissor troops are now ready and prepared to rise and fight against Montenegro if Hoti is given to Montenegro, and I feel certain that nothing will prevent them.

[27300] No. 192.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 218.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 16, 1913.*

RUSSIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs seems satisfied with replies received from Belgrade and Sophia to the Emperor's telegram. His Excellency is telegraphing urging the allies to send delegates at once to St. Petersburgh.

[27607] No. 193.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 219.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 15, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 232 of 12th June to Paris.

I have explained your position to Minister for Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency said that Russian Government was committed to principle of war indemnity as allies would get altogether out of hand if they were not given some pecuniary satisfaction. He did not, however, insist on it being called a war indemnity, and he would be content if object he had in view could be attained by reducing share of debts which each was to take over. Result would in such a case be virtually equivalent to war indemnity, but reduction must be considered one.

I remarked that neither France nor Germany was likely to consent to too great a reduction

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[27482] No. 194.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 221.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 15, 1913.*

MR. O'BEIRNE'S telegram No. 212 of 12th June.

I explained to Minister for Foreign Affairs your views as to hopelessness of inducing Italy and Austria to yield about Stilos and Koritza. His Excellency contended that something might still be done to give satisfaction to Greece, adding that French Minister for Foreign Affairs did not regard the situation as hopeless. We should, he said, act as we had done with regard to Scutari and Djakova, and tell Austria and Italy that we would press Greece to yield on the question of Stilos on condition that Koritza was left to Greece. On my pointing out that while such an arrangement might perhaps satisfy Italy it would not be accepted by Austria, his Excellency remarked that Austria would never undertake expedition to expel Greeks from Koritza, so that the question was not so serious a matter as Scutari had been. We

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could not expect Greece to yield all along the line, and he repeated what he had told Mr. O'Beirne, that we should not be able to induce Turkey to consent to cession to Greece of the islands still occupied by Italy.

[27655] No. 195.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 282.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Constantinople, June 16, 1913.*

"ZEALANDIA" is leaving to-night.

[27587] No. 196.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 16, 1913.*

THE Greek Prime Minister has officially accepted invitation to St. Petersburgh provided that the other Balkan Premiers go there.

[27588] No. 197.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 96. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 16, 1913.*

THE Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, having learnt that you are inclined to abandon the attempt to settle the Albanian frontier question, implores you not to leave Greece to face Austria and Italy alone.

[27636] No. 198.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 212.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 16, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 117 of 6th June.

Austrian Minister having no instructions, joint action could not be taken respecting demobilisation. To-day he informs me that owing to Servian action reported in my telegram No. 208 of 12th June his Government will not join in representations here, which would now have appearance of supporting Servia.

This decision would be communicated to Powers.

(Confidential.)

There is little doubt that Austria is encouraging Bulgarian attitude.

[27657] No. 199.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 147.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Belgrade, June 16, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of 15th June.

I learn that M. Pashitch has withdrawn his resignation, and is prepared to go to St. Petersburgh if meeting can be arranged.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[27432] No. 200.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.**

(No. 456.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 16, 1913.*

ST. PETERSBURGH telegram No. 221 of 15th June.

Minister for Foreign Affairs does not seem to realise that Italy and Austria have yielded some points about South Albania and that to obtain the Kutzo-Vlach district and all the coast up to Stilos for Greece is a considerable gain.

I understand that Austria has not yet given way about Kutzo-Vlach district, but would probably yield to pressure of Germany and Italy if Koritza was kept for Albania.

I do not believe that Italy and Austria will concede Koritza to Greece, and it appears that neither Russian nor French Minister for Foreign Affairs agrees to Greece being deprived of it. The best information I can obtain is to the effect that the town is mainly Albanian.

Under these circumstances only chance I see of a solution is that demarcation should be referred to an international commission. Commission to be instructed to take Stilos, which is to be Albanian, as starting point on the coast and to draw the frontier between two lines, a minimum and a maximum. The minimum line for Albania would be the line starting from Stilos and leaving Koritza to Greece; the maximum would be more or less the last Italian suggestion, starting from Stilos and leaving Koritza to Albania. Commission would be guided by ethnographical and geographical considerations, and would be free to adopt either the maximum or the minimum line, or any line between the two. The only hope of getting this proposal accepted by Italy and Austria would be that Germany should support it energetically. Whether Germany would do this I cannot tell, nor can I move in the matter without knowing whether Russian and French Minister for Foreign Affairs would agree to the proposal.

It is the only suggestion I can make, and I should be glad to know whether Minister for Foreign Affairs wishes me to put it forward, and, if not, what suggestion he can put forward as to how further progress is to be made.

[23874] No. 201.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 86.)
Foreign Office, June 16, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 86 of the 22nd May, suggesting the reference of British claims against Bulgaria to a commission composed in a manner satisfactory to His Majesty's Government.

With regard to the first part of your above-mentioned despatch, it will be necessary for His Majesty's Government to differentiate between commercial grievances—the redress of which we have made a condition precedent to the abolition of the capitulations—and claims arising out of the Bulgarian military operations in the late war.

It will not be possible for His Majesty's Government to approach the Bulgarian Government, or that of any other of the belligerents, respecting claims arising under this latter head, until I have full information as to the nature of them all. It is then probable that some of these claims will not be suitable to be put forward as of right, and that it will be necessary to ascertain whether the Bulgarian Government would be prepared in these cases to pay some compensation as a matter of grace and favour.

It is probable that a commission may eventually be necessary, but the first step will be to get together all the claims in due form. It may then be well to ascertain the intentions of other Powers who have similar claims.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

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* Also to Sir F. Bertie (No. 236).

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[23870] No. 202.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 88.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 16, 1913.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 82, Confidential, of the 17th May, transmitting a list of persons sentenced and awaiting trial at Serres for crimes of violence committed in the occupied territories. You should take an opportunity of informing the Bulgarian Government that His Majesty's Government are glad to learn that some of the culprits have been punished.

At the same time, and with reference to paragraph 2 of your above-mentioned despatch, I transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch from Sir G. Lowther,* forwarding copy of a despatch from His Majesty's vice-consul at Cavalla respecting Greco-Bulgarian relations. In the last paragraph of Mr. Morgan's despatch No. 20/30 it is mentioned that Tchakof has been set at liberty, and that his services may again be utilised. You should therefore, in speaking in the sense already indicated, add that His Majesty's Government, in view of Tchakof's record, have learnt with regret of his liberation, inasmuch as M. Gueshof had said that he would be brought to trial.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[26961] No. 203.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 62.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 16, 1913.

THE Greek Minister left with Sir L. Mallet on the 10th June the document copy of which I transmit to you herewith.

M. Gennadius laid great stress on the pacific intention of M. Venizelos, and begged that I would regard the *démarche* taken by him in the interests of peace as a proof thereof.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 203.

Note left with Sir L. Mallet.

LE Gouvernement hellénique, animé du désir de se montrer conciliant et d'éviter à tout prix une guerre entre les alliés, qui serait une honte pour la civilisation, n'a manqué aucune occasion pour faciliter l'œuvre du partage. Vous savez depuis combien de mois il ne cesse de demander une conférence des alliés à ce but. La Serbie ayant accepté notre proposition, M. Pachitch en fit part à M. Guechof lors de leur dernière entrevue. Ce dernier s'est déclaré personnellement d'accord, ce qui n'empêcha pas qu'une crise ministérielle survienne en Bulgarie, retardant ainsi la réponse bulgare. Entre-temps les Bulgares concentrent leurs forces contre les autres alliés.

Pour éviter un conflit armé, nous venons de proposer à nos alliés ce qui suit :—

1. Réduction simultanée des effectifs.
2. Acceptation de l'entente à quatre, dans le but de solutionner à l'amiable la question du partage.
3. En cas que ceci ne serait pas agréé par la Bulgarie, recours à arbitrage.

Veuillez communiquer ce qui précède à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

COROMILAS.

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* No. 5.

[27075] No. 204.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 63.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 16, 1913.

THE Greek Minister informed Sir L. Mallet on the 10th June that, following my advice, he had proposed to the Turkish delegates the immediate signature of the various agreements which had been left over, viz., those respecting the vacouf, the amnesty, the return of prisoners, &c.

Osman Nizamy agreed, and the signature was to have taken place on the 9th June, when the Turkish delegate informed M. Skouloudis that he could not proceed with the matter. No reason was given, and M. Gennadius is at a loss to understand this action, and told Sir L. Mallet that if I would say a word to the Turks he would be much obliged.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[26962] No. 205.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 220.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 16, 1913.

COUNT BENCKENDORFF told Sir L. Mallet confidentially on the 10th June that the Emperor of Russia had sent a very strongly worded telegram to both the Kings of Servia and Bulgaria deprecating in the most forcible language a resort to arms, and intimating that if war broke out he reserved to himself complete liberty of action.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[27797] No. 206.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June* 17, 1913.

IN order to meet Roumanian demands with regard to Kutzo-Vlachs of the Pindus, who are said to number 1,200 out of a population of 120,000, Greek Government have offered to grant them all the privileges to be given to Kutzo-Vlachs in Bulgaria under the protocol of St. Petersburgh. No answer having been received, some uneasiness is felt as to the ulterior objects of Roumania or her supporters.

[27800] No. 207.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 98. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June* 17, 1913.

I AM informed that the Italian Minister has conveyed to the Greek Government the willingness of the Italian Government that the islands occupied by Italy should be transferred to Greece, with the exception of Astypalæa, and that the Greek Government are disposed to agree. Possibly they count upon the opposition of His Majesty's Government to that exception.

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[27802] No. 208.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 17.)

(No. 100. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June* 17, 1913.

THE German Minister informs me that the Bulgarians intended to attack Servians and Greeks to-morrow without declaration of war, but he supposes that, owing to proposed meeting at St. Petersburgh, they will not do so.

[27806] No. 209.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 17.)

(No. 213.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June* 17, 1913.

MY telegram No. 208 of 12th June.

The Bulgarian Government have replied to Servia respecting reduction of effectives through the Bulgarian Legation at Belgrade suggesting the establishment of condominium in all disputed territories as preliminary to general demobilisation.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[27815] No. 210.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 17.)

(No. 214.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June* 17, 1913.

I HAVE reason to believe that the Greek Government and the Servian Government have decided to send delegates to St. Petersburgh at once and that they are urging Montenegro to do the same.

This will be irrespective of the Bulgarian Government, who have come to no decision at present, but will probably endeavour to make conditions before despatch of delegates.

My Greek and Servian colleagues inform me that their respective armies have been strictly charged to act only on the defensive.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[27812] No. 211.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 17.)

(No. 148.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June* 17, 1913.

I UNDERSTAND that if M. Pashitch goes it is not as a consequence of the Emperor of Russia's telegram, or for direct purpose of submitting Servian-Bulgarian differences to arbitration, but with the intention of having a full discussion with the Premiers of the other allied States, and of availing himself of mediation of Russian Government.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[27816] No. 212.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 17.)

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June* 17, 1913.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informed me to-day that, if war broke out, Roumania would occupy line from Turtukai to Baltchic.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[27819] No. 213.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 17.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, June* 17, 1913.

PRECAUTIONS are being openly taken against a possible *coup de main*, which the General Staff professes to believe contemplated by Bulgarians, who have secretly increased their force in this town from 600 to 1,200. Considerable anxiety exists in consequence.

[27824] No. 214.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 17.)

[By Post.]

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Paris, June* 17, 1913.

GREECE and Albania.

M. Pichon has received from M. Paul Cambon an account of your views, but not so complete as the statement in your telegram No. 236 of 16th June.

In principle he agrees with you, but before proceeding further in regard to the frontier he wishes to have formal assurances from the Italian Government that they will give up the islands which they have occupied and leave the allotment of them for the decision of the Powers, with the view of all being handed over to Greece excepting Thasos, which would be given to Bulgaria, and Imbros and Tenedos, which would be left to Turkey on conditions to be determined.

The Greek Government have, as reported by the French Minister at Athens in a telegram dated 15th June, made an offer to accept a compromise frontier on condition that all the islands except the three named be allotted to Greece. M. Pichon does not consider that it is Greece's last word. His Excellency has good reason to know that Koritza can be obtained for Greece.

He says that in no circumstances can the French Government admit the retention of any island by Italy, for it would create a new naval base which would upset the balance of power in the Mediterranean.

M. Cambon has instructions to confer with you.

[27822] No. 215.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 17.)

(No. 222.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *St. Petersburgh, June* 17, 1913.

SOUTHERN frontier of Albania.

Minister for Foreign Affairs being indisposed, I communicated *aide-mémoire* embodying your telegram No. 456 of 16th June to Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, who will give it to his Excellency and let me know his views.

[27584] No. 216.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1913.

YOUR telegram No. 92 of 15th June.

M. Skouloudis made the same communication to me. I replied that I could not say whether it would be possible to obtain the exact settlement outlined, but that we would continue our endeavours to get an agreement of the Powers on a solution that would not, in our opinion, be altogether impossible for Greece to accept.

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[27588] No. 217.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1913.

YOUR telegram No. 96 of 16th June.

I told M. Skouloudis to-day that it was not true that we had decided to leave Greece to settle alone with Italy and Austria. Such a situation would not arise unless Greece asked for the impossible.

[27607] No. 218.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 238.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1913.

INDEMNITY to Balkan allies.

Please ask British delegates on Financial Commission to furnish observations on your despatch No. 310 of 13th June and Sir G. Buchanan's telegram No. 219 of 15th June sent to you by bag to-day.

[28189] No. 219.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 90.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1913.

THE Bulgarian Minister came to-day to inform me that he had been asked to take the Ministry of the Interior in Sophia, and that as this was a very critical moment for Bulgaria he felt that he could not refuse.

I said that I quite understood that he was obliged to go, but we should regret his departure. He had certainly succeeded in winning my confidence while he had been here, and he would retain this whether he was here or elsewhere. I had appreciated very much what seemed to me the wise and statesmanlike view that he had taken in questions that we had had to discuss together. As to the crisis of the moment, I felt that I could not go to Bulgaria or Greece or Servia and say that any one of them alone was to be held responsible for any breach of the peace: I could only emphasise how everyone would be disappointed and scandalised if they all three did not find some way of keeping the peace. If all the hopes that they had raised by their success were to be disappointed, it would almost seem as if nothing was worth anything.

The Bulgarian Minister said that there were difficulties with the military party in Bulgaria. Military people were generally moderate enough in time of peace, but at the end of a war they were very difficult.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[26960] No. 220.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 225.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1913.

COUNT BENCKENDORFF asked Sir L. Mallet, on the 10th June, to remind me that the question of compensation to Montenegro must not be forgotten. His Excellency had had several instructions to bring the matter before the *réunion* of Ambassadors, but had hitherto refused. He would be obliged to find an opportunity and ask for my assistance, and if I would initiate the discussion it would facilitate matters.

There were three ways in which compensation could be arranged: (1) by territorial compensation; (2) by assistance in irrigation; (3) by financial assistance.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[26959] No. 221.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No. 226.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1913.

COUNT BENCKENDORFF enquired of Sir L. Mallet on the 10th June whether I would accept the mediation of the three *Entente* Powers if both Greece and Bulgaria asked for it.

His Excellency added that M. Sazonof would much like me to instruct Sir F. Elliot to this effect, and, Sir L. Mallet understood, let it be known unofficially by him that this idea would not be disagreeable to me.

Count Benckendorff said that of course his first enquiry was the more important.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[28368] No. 222.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.

(No. 124.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1913.

THE Austrian Ambassador informed me to-day that, if the reaffirmation of the decision about Servian access to the Adriatic was to be coupled with the demand that Servia should evacuate the Albanian territory that she now occupied, Servia must be reminded at the same time of the necessity of guarantees for the minorities in the region that she retained. This was a thing to which the Powers had agreed, and it ought to be put before Servia in the original form, and not in that to which it had been altered by M. Hartwig. The Ambassador left the two following notes with me as a verbal communication.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 222.

Notes communicated by Count Mensdorff.

(1.)

DANS la réunion du 22 mars dernier on était tombé d'accord "que les six Puissances pourraient déclarer en même temps qu'il est indispensable de prendre d'urgence des mesures pour assurer la protection effective des populations catholiques, musulmanes et albanaises dans les territoires cédés au Monténégro et à la Serbie."

Lors de l'exécution de la démarche en question à Belgrade, les Ministres de France, de Grande-Bretagne et de Russie ont remplacé les mots "assurer la protection effective" par "assurer la liberté des cultes effectivement," tandis que le texte des démarches faites par les Ministres d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Italie était conforme au texte arrêté à la réunion du 22 mars.

Le Comte Berchtold attacherait du prix à ce que la résolution de la réunion du 22 mars fût répétée à Belgrade par les représentants des Grandes Puissances à l'occasion de la démarche prise en considération à la dernière réunion relativement à la question de l'évacuation du territoire albanais par les troupes serbes.

Ambassade d'Autriche-Hongrie, Londres,
le 16 *juin*, 1913.

(2.)

Évacuation de l'Albanie par les Serbes.

Des troupes serbes occupent les points suivants du territoire albanais :—

Sur la route de Scutari à Prizrend—

Pouka (34 kilom. de Scutari).
Tchafa Malit (43 kilom. de Scutari).

FO 424/246 [ALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE]

Oura Vézirit (le pont du Vizir, 68 kilom. de Scutari), avec trois bataillons.
Orochi (chef-lieu de la Mirditie, 50 kilom. de Scutari), avec 450 soldats.

Sous prétexte de désarmement ou pour obtenir des signatures sur des requêtes en faveur de la Serbie, ces troupes se livrent à toute sorte de vexations contre la population du pays et cela provoquera des soulèvements et des rencontres armés.

En outre, le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal est saisi d'une plainte de la part d'un sujet autrichien résidant dans le village de Zumbi en Albanie que les autorités serbes occupant ce village exigent de lui le payement de contributions.

Enfin, il a été porté à la connaissance du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal que les autorités serbes ont enjoint à vingt jeunes gens albanais du village de Zumbi d'entrer comme volontaires dans l'armée serbe, en leur faisant comprendre qu'en cas de refus de leur part on userait de la force.

Le village de Zumbi est situé entre Prizrend et Diakova sur la rive droite du fleuve Drin dans le territoire qui, par la délimitation des frontières nord-est, est assigné à l'Albanie.

Il appert donc de cette réclamation que les Serbes occupent encore le territoire compris dans les limites déterminées par les Puissances pour l'Albanie et qu'ils y exercent des pouvoirs gouvernementaux.

Le Cabinet austro-hongrois attacherait du prix qu'enfin le territoire albanais entier soit évacué par les Serbes.

Quand le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal a renoncé à insister sur l'incorporation de Diakova dans l'Albanie il l'a fait en posant certaines conditions sur l'accomplissement exact desquelles il doit absolument insister. Une de ces conditions était que le territoire assigné à l'Albanie soit évacué par les alliés.

Ayant prouvé de ne poursuivre aucun but égoïste et ayant fait à plusieurs reprises de grandes concessions, le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal doit d'autant plus énergiquement maintenir le peu qui, grâce à ses efforts, a pu être assuré en faveur de l'Albanie.

Nous comptons sur l'appui du Gouvernement britannique afin que le compromis établi par son efficace intervention soit loyalement exécuté.

[28369] No. 223.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.

(No. 125.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1913.

THE Austrian Ambassador gave me to-day the following as a verbal communication :—

"Le Gouvernement d'Autriche-Hongrie a approuvé la résolution de la réunion, d'après laquelle il conviendrait de faire des démarches à Constantinople, Athènes, Belgrade et Sophia, par rapport à la réduction immédiate des effectifs de guerre. Les représentants Impériaux et Royaux avaient reçu l'instruction de faire—*si omnes*—ces démarches.

"Le Gouvernement d'Autriche-Hongrie considérait ces démarches comme une continuation de l'action de médiation entre la Turquie et les alliés, qui devait—après la signature des préliminaires de paix—tout naturellement conclure par une invitation à adresser aux belligérants de réduire leurs effectifs de guerre.

"Depuis lors il s'est présenté un fait nouveau—le Gouvernement serbe ayant, pour faciliter ses différends avec le Gouvernement bulgare, suggéré à Sophia une démobilisation simultané et pareille des forces bulgares et serbes.

"Une action des Puissances après cette proposition faite à Sophia par la Serbie pourrait facilement être interprétée, non comme une conséquence logique de la médiation, mais comme un appui de la démarche serbe concernant les différends serbo-bulgares, par les Grandes Puissances, une interprétation que le Gouvernement d'Autriche-Hongrie préférerait éviter.

"Bien que le Gouvernement d'Autriche-Hongrie désire toujours une solution amicale de tous les différents points en litige (les représentants d'Autriche-Hongrie s'expriment d'après leurs instructions dans ce sens), il pense que pour la raison susmentionnée il ne serait pas opportun de faire à présent les démarches en question. Le Comte Berchtold a donné des instructions dans ce sens aux représentants Impériaux et Royaux à Constantinople et auprès des alliés."

I observed that we had already supported the request for demobilisation in Sophia, and I believed that the Bulgarians had replied to the Servian request by saying that they would agree to demobilise if the disputed territory was still retained in joint occupation. The important thing would therefore appear to be that the Servians should agree to this condition.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[26664] No. 224.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1913.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* transmitting copy of a despatch from the Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting Turkish naval matters.

I am to enquire whether, in the opinion of their Lordships, any advice should be given to the Turkish Government as to their naval expenditure, since it seems to Sir E. Grey that a heavy outlay on "Dreadnoughts" would be a ruinous and foolish policy for Turkey to pursue.

I am, &c.
LOUIS MALLET.

[27836] No. 225.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 525.)
Sir, *Constantinople, June* 14, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's acting vice-consul at Cavalla, reporting on arrival of Bulgarian troops and Bulgar-Greek relations.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 225.

Acting Vice-Consul Morgan to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 25.)
Sir, *Cavalla, June* 6, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that between the 30th May and the 2nd June four Bulgarian transports arrived here, each carrying one regiment of infantry from the Bulgar lines.

Yesterday evening, the 5th June, the Bulgarian steamers "Varna" and "Boris" brought here two further regiments, and more are expected this evening. The troops, after a short stay in Cavalla, left for Drama.

Yesterday a large Greek torpedo destroyer and a transport steamed into Leftera harbour. The transport left again this morning.

In military circles here the end of negotiations between Bulgaria and Greece is being anxiously waited for. If war with the allies breaks out the Bulgarians are confident of speedy victory. The local Bulgarian troops are showing much impatience and discontent at the prolonged stay with the colours.

A few cases of cholera are reported among the Bulgarian troops in the Pravishta district.

I have, &c.
JAMES MORGAN.

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* No. 118.

[27837] No. 226.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 526.)

Sir, *Constantinople, June 14, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 494 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to enclose herein copies of a despatch from His Majesty's consul-general at Salonica (No. 52 of the 7th June), forwarding extracts from the local press relative to the alleged severities committed by the Bulgarians against the Greeks, and *vice versa*, in the districts respectively occupied.

I would add in this connection that the Greek Patriarch has sent me a message to the effect that atrocities were being committed by Bulgarians at Hora and Milo; that a certain non-commissioned officer of the 9th battalion of volunteers of Velesa was implicated in the violation of a girl; that at Paramonti the Bulgarians had burned a school; and that further atrocities were reported from Kerasia and Injekoy. His Holiness had received this information from the Greek Bishop.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 226.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 52.)

Sir, *Salonica, June 7, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith some extracts from the newspaper "La Liberté" of to-day's date* relative to barbarities alleged to have been committed by Bulgarians on the Greek population of various districts occupied by their troops, and to denials of certain other acts of severity against Bulgarians, which have been attributed by the Bulgarian Telegraphic Agency to the Greek authorities in this region.

It is, of course, impossible for me to control the accuracy or otherwise of these individual allegations. I may remark, however, that the press of this place is subjected to a severe censorship before publication, the express object of which is to prevent the appearance of false news tending to disturb public opinion or envenom the mutual relations between the various elements of the population. The "Liberté,' moreover, is a paper which was established here under the auspices, if not under the direct management, of the Hellenic authorities. A publication of this nature, therefore, appearing in its columns must be regarded as possessing an almost official character. In any case there cannot be the slightest doubt that in general it accurately represents the state of things actually existing in Macedonia. The deliberate policy of the authorities in occupation everywhere is to eliminate every trace of any religion or nationality other than their own, and thereby produce an appearance of uniformity before the moment of final delimitation, the violence of the methods adopted varying according to the character of the agents employed. As they all have the best of reasons for knowing that the priests and school-teachers have from all time been the mainsprings of nationalistic propaganda, it is naturally the priests and school-teachers of the opposite sections that are most immediately exposed to their attack.

The same treatment that is suffered by Patriarchists in the Bulgarian sphere is meted out to Bulgars in the Servian one; and, though less is heard here of complaints against the Greek administration, there is little doubt that much the same treatment is being met with at their hands by the Albanian population of Korytza, Colonja, and Northern Epirus, who are imprisoned, fined, or exiled without trial or cause shown. Even here in Salonica I am credibly informed that over 100 Bulgarians from the Florina district are imprisoned on grounds and under conditions which do not essentially differ from those prevailing under the Turks.

I annex also to this despatch a translation of a letter* recently addressed by the Greek Bishop of Doiran to the Archbishop of Salonica, which has been confidentially communicated to me. Similar complaints, as I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 48 of the 26th ultimo, have been received from the Bishop of Stroumnitza. On the other hand, the Bulgarian Catholic Bishop of Kilkish, who divides his time between that town and Salonica, and recently proceeded to the former on business connected with his see, was refused permission to return here by the Greek authorities.

* Not printed.

In general it is a matter of extreme difficulty to obtain permission to pass from one zone of occupation into the other, very serious inconvenience and loss being thereby inflicted on all classes of the population. Proprietors are unable to visit their property, merchants are unable to move their goods, and country people to bring their produce to market. Quite recently the Bulgarian authorities, in spite of my protests, have maintained their refusal to permit natives of a village in their occupation to fulfil their annual contract to reap the harvest on the farm of a British subject situated in the Greek sphere. As no possible advantage can accrue to anyone from this systematic harassing of the economic life of the population, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the sole motive is the deliberate and malicious desire to do as much harm as possible to every interest which is not purely Bulgarian. This is both economically and politically a serious blunder—economically because, if they are eventually to occupy the whole country, it will be of no advantage to themselves to have to administer a ruined and resentful population, and politically because it is playing into the hands of their allies.

(Copies sent to Athens and Sofia.)

I have, &c.
HARRY H. LAMB.

[27831] No. 227.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 314.)

Sir, *Paris, June 17, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a despatch from the British delegates on the Financial Commission on Balkan Affairs, reporting on the proceedings of the second and third meetings of the commission.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE.

Enclosure in No. 227.

Financial Delegates to Sir Edward Grey.

(No. 10.)

Sir, *Paris, June 16, 1913.*

WITH reference to our despatch No. 9 of the 4th instant, we have the honour to report that the second plenary meeting of the Financial Commission on Balkan Affairs took place on the 9th instant in order to discuss the procedure to be adopted in regard to the work of the Commission and the proposals on the subject which had been drafted as the result of unofficial consultations between the various delegations. After some discussion of no great importance the "projet de règlement" was provisionally adopted with the exception of article 2, which was reserved for future discussion, as some of the delegates were without instructions as to whether the Balkan delegates were to be given "voix délibérative" or "voix consultative" only. This article stated that the decisions of the Commission on all questions on the programme of work were to be taken unanimously in the plenary meetings, while questions of procedure were to be settled by a majority of votes. In the course of the sitting the principal Bulgarian delegate declared in the name of the Balkan States that they considered that the programme proposed to the Commission was only an enumeration of the questions to be examined by the delegates, and in no way prejudged either the substance, the priority, or the connection of these questions, and that subject to this reservation they accepted the draft proposals. The next meeting was fixed for the 12th June.

In view of the general feeling of the Commission that it would probably be impracticable for any majority to enforce its views on the minority, and that it was consequently undesirable to settle any question by voting, it was arranged by an unofficial exchange of views between the delegates that all questions whatsoever were to be decided unanimously, and that article 2 should be amended accordingly. However, at the following meeting, which did not take place until the 16th June, on M. de Margerie's proposing the adoption of article 2, amended in the manner described above, the principal Austro-Hungarian delegate stated that he was still awaiting the instructions of his Government on the question whether the Balkan delegates were to have deliberative or consultative voices on the Commission. The German delegates agreed to the article as amended on condition that the other articles of the

"règlement," agreed to provisionally at a former meeting, were definitely adopted. The Italian delegates joined in the German and Austro-Hungarian reservations. The president then proposed that the Commission should proceed to the nomination of the committees into which the Commission is to be divided, but the Balkan delegates declared that until the question of their position on the Commission was definitely settled they would not take any part in the proceedings of the committees. The Russian delegates strongly upheld the attitude of the Balkan delegates, and suggested that the Austro-Hungarian delegates should undertake to give a definite pronouncement of the views of their Governments on the question by a certain date, as the present state of uncertainty could not continue. M. de Margerie urged the Balkan delegates to consent to the commencement of work by the committees, pointing out that these committees were to decide nothing, but merely to investigate and report. The German and Italian delegates also spoke in the same sense as M. de Margerie. We did not feel called upon to take part in the discussion, as we considered that the Balkan delegates were justified in adopting an attitude calculated to protect their interests and to assert the principle, always upheld by His Majesty's Government, that they were to be admitted to unrestricted participation in the work of the Commission.

At the request of the Bulgarian delegates the sitting was suspended for a short time in order to allow the Balkan delegates to confer together. As a result of their deliberations the Commission proceeded to the appointment of the committees, on the understanding that until the position of the Balkan delegates was settled, the work of the committees would be uncontroversial in character.

The choice of the vice-presidents and "rapporteurs" of the committees was then proceeded with. This question has given rise to considerable difficulties in the unofficial negotiations which have taken place. As reported in Sir Paul Harvey's despatch No. 6 of the 30th ultimo, the names of M. Helfferich and M. Raffalovich had been put forward for the presidencies of the committees which are to deal respectively with the question of the apportionment of Ottoman Debt and that of the allies' claim to an indemnity. Notwithstanding the obvious objections to which this arrangement was open, it met with a considerable measure of general support. The proposed selection of M. Raffalovich gave so much satisfaction to the Balkan delegates that they waived their objections to M. Helfferich. The Turks, who were at first strenuously opposed to the choice of M. Raffalovich, found some compensation in the selection of M. Helfferich. In order to attenuate somewhat the objections to the lack of impartiality of which these gentlemen might be suspected it was agreed that M. de Margerie, the president of the Commission, should also be president of the committees, and should be present, so far as possible, at their deliberations; M. Helfferich and M. Raffalovich would be styled vice-presidents, and be charged with the direction of the committees' labours. It was further arranged that "rapporteurs" should be appointed to these committees whose impartiality was not open to question.

A further difficulty arose with regard to the third committee, namely, that which is to deal with the question of concessions and contracts. Both the Austrian and Italian delegations are exceptionally interested in this matter, and both desired to be represented on it in a special capacity. It was ultimately arranged that this committee should have an Italian as vice-president and an Austrian as "rapporteur."

By general agreement the following names were finally submitted and approved:—

Committee of the Debt—

Vice-president, M. Helfferich (German).
Rapporteur, Sir Paul Harvey (British).

Committee on the claim to an indemnity—

Vice-president, M. Raffalovich (Russian).
Rapporteur, M. Luquet (French).

Committee on concessions—

Vice-president, M. Volpi (Italian).
Rapporteur, M. d'Adler (Austrian).

In view of the general recognition that a certain rough justice was done by this arrangement, and of the danger of giving considerable personal offence both to the Germans and the Russians by pressing our objections, we thought it right to acquiesce in the above proposals.

No vice-president has been at present selected for the committee, which at a later

stage is to deal with the question of the guarantees to be furnished by the Balkan States for the discharge of the obligations which may be thrown upon them.

The *procès-verbaux* of the first three sittings of the Commission will be forwarded in a further despatch.

We have, &c.
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.
H. P. HARVEY.

[27829] No. 228.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 285.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, June* 18, 1913.

IT is officially announced that Cabinet has been reformed, with Said Halim Pasha as Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs; General Izzet Pasha, Minister of War; Mahmoud Pasha, Minister of Marine; Talaat Bey, Minister of the Interior. This Cabinet is of a more Committee complexion than its predecessor.

[27954] No. 229.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 287.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, June* 18, 1913.

YOUR telegram No. 246 of 6th June: Reduction of Balkan armies.

Austrian Ambassador told me last night that he had no instructions to make such a communication. A few days ago he said that he had them, but that the German had not. Now the latter says he is ready to act when all his colleagues are.

[27964] No. 230.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 215.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June* 18, 1913.

MILITARY attaché informs me that concentration of Bulgarian army on Servian frontier is now complete and approximately as follows:—

First army, north of Balkans, between Ferdinandovo and Widdin, composed of two divisions under General Koutinchef; fifth army, between Sophia and Servian frontier, composed of one division and some new formations, probably amounting to another division, under General Toshef; third army, between Kustendil and Kocane, composed of three divisions under General Dimitrief; fourth army, in the valley of Bregalnica and at Strumnitsa, composed of two divisions; second army, round Doiran, Demirhissar, Serres, composed of three divisions under General Ivanof; one division is watching the coast between Cavalla and Dedeagatch, and a portion of one division is at Chatalja.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[27966] No. 231.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 18, 1913.

AUSTRIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs told me to-day that the last telegrams which he had just received from Balkans led him to take a more pessimistic view of the situation than he had done of late. It seemed to him as if Bulgaria had no intention of going to the conference at St. Petersburgh unless she was completely reassured as to the verdict of the Emperor of Russia. His information went to show that the army demanded immediate war or disbandment, and the attitude of the King was equivocal. Minister for Foreign Affairs was not quite clear whether Servia was really satisfied with the Emperor of Russia's action, and whether she was sincerely

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willing to abide by his award. In his opinion, Servia being in possession of territories she claimed, it was doubtful whether she would surrender them unless compelled to do so by force.

I tried to sound Minister for Foreign Affairs as to what he thought of the attitude of Roumania. He was very vague in his reply, but admitted there was some reason to believe that Servia was making advances to Roumania, though he thought so far with little success.

Roumania's attitude, he said, would depend on whether Bulgaria was willing to pay price for her neutrality or not.

The Servian Minister called on me this morning, and he, too, is very pessimistic as to the situation. He said that it was quite impossible for New Servia to be cut off from contact with Greece, as in that case her commerce would be strangled by Bulgaria on one side and Austria on the other, and a year might elapse before Albanian railway was built. As war was inevitable within two or three years' time, it was perhaps better to fight out the question at issue now. Servia could only lose by waiting longer, for a few years' peace would increase the strength of Bulgaria enormously.

[27281] No. 232.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 268.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 18, 1913.

YOUR telegram No. 279 of 14th June: Murder of Grand Vizier and violation of domicile of British subject by police.

I approve action taken by your Excellency. If apology is offered and an undertaking given to make good damages I shall be prepared to consider this sufficient in view of the special circumstances of this case.

[27800] No. 233.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Dering.

(No. 186.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 18, 1913.

SIR F. ELLIOT'S telegram No. 98, Confidential, of 17th June: Ægean islands.

Can you ascertain anything with regard to the alleged design of Italy to retain Astypalæa.

[25446] No. 234.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 378.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 18, 1913.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 219 of the 30th April last, relative to the seizure of Ottoman fiscal stamps by the Greek and Bulgarian authorities in the occupied territories, I transmit to your Excellency herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Athens,* forwarding the reply of the Greek Government to the representations made to them on the subject, which is of an unsatisfactory character.

In view of the recent conclusion of peace, it appears to me that it would be convenient to submit the solution of the difficulty to the Financial Commission in Paris.

Your Excellency should inform the French Minister for Foreign Affairs that this is my view, and ask him for an expression of his opinion on the subject.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

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* No. 30.

[28054] No. 235.

Sir R. Crawford to Sir W. Tyrrell.—(*Received June* 19.)

(Confidential.)
Dear Tyrrell, *Hôtel Palais d'Orsay, Paris, June* 11, 1913.

THERE are two or three points about which you may like to speak to Sir E. Grey, as they have relation to my recent conversation with him.

Last week I was present at a meeting here of the board of the Ottoman Bank, when the question was discussed as to the temporary measures to be taken to meet the financial exigencies at Constantinople. It was agreed that something must be done to provide sufficient money to keep things going pending the general settlement which will take place after the Financial Conference has reported. Consultations are in progress with the Germans and with the National Bank with the object of finding some way of furnishing the small advances necessary for this purpose. A suggestion was also made by the French group that steps should be taken for an early consolidation of the outstanding advances in the form of a new short loan—say, five years—carrying 7 per cent. interest. This would be a convenient way of clearing up the difficulties connected with the renewal of the outstanding advances—some of which are already running on at the protest rate of 9 per cent., and the others will eventually follow suit—but the proposal requires consideration from the political as well as the financial point of view. At the present moment it would be unwise to enter into any consolidation arrangement requiring fresh guarantees on revenues not already assigned, as this would prejudice the question as to guarantees about to be discussed at the conference; and, secondly, it is important that no unassigned revenues should be pledged just now until we can judge as to the nature of the guarantees that may be required for the general settlement which must follow immediately after the conference. Apart, however, from this aspect of the matter, all these financial operations should be, I think, subordinated to the institution of effective measures of administrative and economic reform in Asia Minor as affording in the long run the only real guarantees for the stability of the financial situation. It might be well that the Foreign Office should intervene to get this principle accepted as preliminary to any arrangement outside the limits of provisional small advances. In the meantime, it would be preferable that these advances should be guaranteed, if possible, on securities other than revenues not already assigned. For example, attempts have been made by the Ottoman Government to sell the land and buildings at Pophané. This land is really required for the extension of the port and quays on the Galata side, and in this extension the British Government is interested as a shareholder in the quay company. It would be unfortunate therefore if the land fell into the hands of speculators who are already making offers. It would be in the general interest if a lien could be secured on it by means of a mortgage as security for advances to the Turkish Government, say, up to a total of £ T. 600,000. This is the amount at which the quay company has put its first estimate of the value of the property concerned, but it is probably much below its real value. An advance on a mortgage on these lines would prevent any speculative developments contrary to British and French interests in the port and quays, and it would at the same time obviate the necessity of assigning as security revenues not already engaged. This is a matter the British and French groups could take up without any prejudice to German interests. Moreover, in this connection it should be observed that the Germans have secured the rights of the Oriental Railway Company on the Stamboul side—as you are no doubt aware—so that further extension on that side will be more or less in their hands. I have advised Granet here to enter into negotiations with the Germans as to further developments on the Stamboul side, and I have written to Cecil Lubbock on the same point. The matter is one which might be subsequently discussed by the three Governments interested in relation to the future development of the port of Constantinople.

As regards the question of the advances, it should not be overlooked that the financial stringency is still acute; salaries are two months in arrear and the pay of the troops is also more or less in arrear. Furthermore, money will be required for the demobilisation.

Now as to reforms. I have submitted to the Turkish delegates here a draft programme for the immediate appointment by the Ottoman Government, in consultation with the Powers interested, of a temporary mixed commission (foreign experts and Turkish functionaries) to draw up a scheme of administrative and economic reforms

for Asia Minor after enquiry into the local conditions. The programme has been approved by all the delegates (Djavid is a little lukewarm) and will be submitted at once to the Government by Nail Bey with a strong recommendation that steps should be taken forthwith for the setting up of this mixed commission. At the same time, I have suggested that the execution of the reforms recommended by this temporary commission should be supervised by the Permanent Mixed Commission of Financial and Economic Reforms attached to the Ministry of Finance; that this latter commission should be reconstituted on the Turkish side, and that it should be reinforced on the foreign side by the nomination of a German; that it should be charged with the preparation of the annual budget, and with the supervision of expenditure within the limits of the annual revenues; and that it should be instructed to draw up a scheme of reorganisation of the Turkish Civil Service and be charged with the execution of that scheme.

These are the outlines of the principal proposals. I will not weary you with details. The proposals will be submitted to the Government (notwithstanding the death of Mahmoud Shefket Pasha, which has been reported since I started this letter) by Nail Bey as representing the view of the Turkish delegation, and with a recommendation that they should be adopted forthwith as the only alternative to direct intervention and control by the Powers.

I have written this letter, which kindly treat as strictly confidential, as an appendix to the general conversation I had with Sir E. Grey, and it is for you to decide whether it is likely to be useful to him in connection with the Foreign Office policy in the existing state of things. My personal view is that, in order to avoid further disastrous complications and internal trouble in Turkey, the Powers interested should seize the occasion to insist on the introduction of real measures of economic and administrative reform (in the framing of which they could co-operate on the lines suggested above and subsequently by lending experts to assist in the local application of the approved programme) as a preliminary guarantee for the further investment of money in Turkey, and as an assurance that the financial and other contractual engagements to which the Ottoman Government is already committed will be respected.

An intimation from the Ottoman Government that they have under consideration a scheme of reforms such as I have indicated may enable the Foreign Office to develop the matter in such a way as to secure indirectly most of the advantages supposed to be connected with direct control without incurring the responsibilities for the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, which the assumption of direct control would entail.

I am afraid I have discoursed too long, but I wanted you to have my views for what they are worth.

Yours, &c.
RICHARD F. CRAWFORD.

Dear Tyrrell, *Hôtel Palais d'Orsay, Paris, June* 13, 1913.

As a postscription to my earlier letter, I can now add that the proposals referred to in the latter have been signed to-day by all the Turkish delegates to this conference, and have been despatched by to-day's mail to the Porte with a strong recommendation to communicate them officially to the Powers without delay and to invite their co-operation. The Porte has been informed that these proposals afford the only way out of the present difficulties, and that the matter is one of the gravest urgency.

I hope that the Foreign Office may see its way to reinforce the proposals wherever this may seem to be desirable. My hope is that in the form in which I have submitted them we shall secure practically all the advantages of direct control, and I am anxious that English influence should be more or less predominant in pressing on the proposals of reforms suggested.

Yours, &c.
R. F. CRAWFORD.

[27995] No. 236.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 20. Consular.)

Sir, *Athens, June* 13, 1913.

I RECEIVED from His Majesty's consul-general at Salonica despatches dated the 13th and 21st ultimo, reporting on the danger to navigation caused by the condition of

the buoys at the entrance to the Bay of Salonica, to which he had called the attention of the captain of the port on the 2nd March.

I handed copies of Mr. Lamb's despatches and of the papers enclosed in them to the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, who promised attention to the matter, and on the 4th instant he addressed to me a note, copy of which I have the honour to enclose. As it did not appear to be satisfactory, some further communications ensued with the Ministry, with the result that I have this day received the further note, copy of which is also enclosed, and which states that one of the buoys is the same that was there in Turkish times, and offers sufficient protection against the Karabournou shoals, while the three smaller buoys on the same side mark the limit of the mine-field.

This latter statement is important, as Mr. Lamb had reported that on the 29th December a notice was issued to the effect that the automatic mines in the Karabournou channel had been removed. That mines are still in existence there was admitted to me verbally by an official of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

In his despatch of the 21st May, Mr. Lamb informed me that he had reported the matter of these buoys to the Board of Trade.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

Enclosure 1 in No. 236.

M. Coromilas to Sir F. Elliot.

M. le Ministre, *Athènes, le* 22 *mai* (4 *juin*), 1913.

J'AI communiqué immédiatement au Ministre de la Marine les rapports du consul général d'Angleterre à Salonique au sujet des bouées placées devant le cap Cara.

Mon collègue de la Marine m'informe que le service des bouées et des phares étant fait par l'Administration des Phares de l'Empire ottoman, c'est à elle qu'il s'était adressé, le 31 décembre, 1912, en vue de faire changer l'emplacement de la bouée devant le Carabournou. Le capitaine du port de Salonique vient d'informer le Ministère de la Marine, par sa lettre en date du 3 (16) mai, que ladite bouée a été placée de façon à assurer pendant le jour les navires contre les bas-fonds du Vardar.

Veuillez, &c.
L. A. COROMILAS.

Enclosure 2 in No. 236.

M. Coromilas to Sir F. Elliot.

M. le Ministre, *Athènes, le* 31 *mai* (13 *juin*), 1913.

POUR faire suite à ma lettre en date du 22 mai, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que, d'après les renseignements complémentaires fournis par le Ministère de la Marine, la bouée placée à l'entrée du golfe de Salonique est celle qui y existait déjà sous le régime turc; par ses dimensions et son emplacement actuel elle est visible à une distance permettant aux navires de tout tonnage et de tout tirant d'eau de passer, pendant la journée et par tous les temps, sans courir le risque soit de s'ensabler sur les bas-fonds du cap Cara, soit de se heurter contre quelque mine. Les trois autres petites bouées qui se trouvent du même côté marquent la limite de la zone où se sont placées les torpilles automatiques.

Veuillez, &c.
L. A. COROMILAS.

[27983] No. 237.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 320.)

Sir, *Paris, June* 18, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a despatch which I have received from Sir Paul Harvey, relative to the first meeting of the committee of contracts and concessions of the the Balkan Financial Commission, and asking for copies of contracts and concessions held by British subjects.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE.

ALL WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE

Enclosure in No. 237.

Sir P. Harvey to Sir Edward Grey.

(No. 11.)

Sir, *Paris, June* 18, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that the first meeting took place this morning of the committee of the Balkan Financial Commission which is charged with the examination of the questions arising out of concessions and contracts granted by the Ottoman Government in the territories now ceded to the allies.

The committee decided to invite the various delegations to submit to it for examination the contracts or concessions held by their respective nationals, with a view to the establishment, if possible, of the principles according to which the allied Governments are to be substituted for the Ottoman Government in the execution of the latter's share of the contracts and concessions in question.

I have accordingly the honour to request that I may be furnished at the earliest possible date with not less than two copies, and if possible eleven copies (one for each delegation) of any contracts or concessions held by British subjects from the Ottoman Government in respect of enterprises conducted in the ceded territories.

I understand that the delegations most interested in such enterprises have already been provided by their Governments with the required documents.

I have, &c.
H. P. HARVEY.

[28095] No. 238.

Mr. Carnegie to Mr. Maxwell.—(Received June 19.)

Dear Maxwell, *Paris, June* 18, 1913.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 238 to Sir F. Bertie of the 17th instant, I send you herewith a short memorandum containing some observations on Pichon's and Sazonof's remarks respecting the indemnity question. We hope to send a more detailed and official reply to-morrow, after the meeting of the committee which deals with this question, and sits to-morrow morning for the first time.

Yours sincerely,
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

P.S.—The Austrian Councillor has just told me that Paléologue informed the Austrian Ambassador yesterday that the French Government intended to look after the interests of the French bondholders most energetically.

L. D. C.

Enclosure in No. 238.

Memorandum.

THE suggestions made by both the French and Russian Ministers for Foreign Affairs amount to this: that, in lieu of Turkey paying an indemnity to the allies, the share of the Ottoman Debt to be taken over by the allies should be reduced below the figure at which it might otherwise equitably be fixed.

There is evidently room for discussion as to what the amount of the debt to be taken over should be, but not very much, if the bondholders are to be maintained in their rights. There evidently comes a point beyond which the reduction in the allies' share of the debt has the effect of damaging the holders of the debt as a whole. The security on which the debt was contracted by Turkey has been very materially reduced by the cession of the European provinces. If the share of that debt which Turkey is to bear henceforward is not reduced substantially in the same proportion, the position of the creditors suffers materially.

It is easy to understand that Russia, which has practically no bondholders of the Turkish Debt, should be prepared for a solution at the expense of the bondholders of other nations. It is less easy to see how the French Government can defend such a solution. It may be that by a "compromise which may alleviate the allied States from

too large a share of the Ottoman Debt," they have in view some more complicated arrangement, in which, for instance, a guaranteed loan to Turkey might play a part.

An endeavour will be made to discover precisely what the French have in mind.

British Embassy, Paris, June 18, 1913.

[27978] No. 239.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 216.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June* 18, 1913.

AT his first official reception to-day M. Danef requested me to inform you, in reply to wish expressed in your telegram No. 120 of 12th June, that Bulgaria should demobilise, that his Government were only too anxious to do this, and have so informed Servian Government, but it could be only on condition that condominium was established in occupied territory. If Servia would agree to this, Bulgaria would reduce effectives simultaneously with Servia to a quarter of present strength.

On question as to submitting present differences to arbitration, his Excellency stated that such was the wish of his Government, but they could only do it to the extent to which arbitration was foreshadowed in article 4 of treaty. He added that even if Prime Ministers of Greece, Servia, and Montenegro went to St. Petersburgh, he would not be able to do so unless Servian Government could find some means of changing their present attitude or he had some positive from assurance St. Petersburgh that arbitration would be on lines of treaty. He said that time was pressing, and army could not wait. I hear that he spoke to my colleagues of the Great Powers in the same sense.

(Confidential.)

Considering his disposition, I did not find Prime Minister unconciliatory, and I believe that he is really anxious to find a way out of the present *impasse*. Bulgarian Government is also undoubtedly being influenced by reports of probable attitude of Roumania in case of war.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[28008] No. 240.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 78. Very Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June* 19, 1913.

AT an audience yesterday the King told the French Minister that Bulgaria had made no proposals to Roumania, and, whatever proposals she might make, Roumania would not allow Servia to be crushed.

His Majesty said that on the outbreak of war Roumania would occupy the line mentioned in my immediately preceding telegram of 17th June, as a warning to Bulgaria.

(Sent to Sophia and Belgrade.)

[28120] No. 241.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 101.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June* 19, 1913.

GREEK Minister for Foreign Affairs thinks that, unless strong pressure is put upon Bulgaria, there will be war within ten days. He thinks that Bulgaria will buy Roumanian neutrality at a heavy price. He is almost inclined to prefer war to intervention of Europe.

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[28133] No. 242.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 149.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 19, 1913.*

SERVIAN Government consider reply of Bulgaria concerning reduction of effectives, which was delivered here yesterday, and which stated as condition a condominium in disputed territories, as being entirely unacceptable. Prime Minister thinks that if Bulgaria persists in her present attitude, and holds to condition that arbitration shall be upon lines of treaty, it is useless for him to go to St. Petersburgh. Tone here is now decidedly pessimistic, and feeling prevails that, even should it be possible to find some arrangement, one side or the other must be disappointed, whilst feeling between the two countries is so bitter that war is only temporarily postponed.

[28135] No. 243.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 217.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 19, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 204 of 11th June.

Prime Minister informs me Bulgarian reply to Servian note respecting revision of treaty was despatched last night. It is twenty-six pages long, and amounts to refusal of Servian request.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[28138] No. 244.

Mr. Dering to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 104.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June 19, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 186 of 18th June.

There is no indication here of Italian Government having changed policy outlined to you by Italian Ambassador on 2nd June (see your despatch No. 149). The Prime Minister has repeatedly stated that islands must be returned to Turkey, and for some time past the press has evidently been primed to prepare public opinion for that eventuality.

On the other hand, General d'Ameglio, commanding at Rhodes, is here on leave, and, as previously shown, there is undoubtedly party, both military and naval, including Ministers of War and Marine, who would prefer that Italy should retain some compensation for her work in islands of pacification, administration, sanitation, &c.

Personally, I cannot believe Italian Minister at Athens can have received instructions so contrary in spirit to those sent to Ambassador at London.

The press states to-day that General Officer Commanding at Derna has been negotiating for ten days with Aziz for evacuation by Turkish troops, who are now stated to be on their way to Sollum.

I shall ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs on taking leave before transfer to-morrow of embassy to Posillipo for confirmation of this latter report, and will also endeavour to obtain from him a contradiction of information from Athens, to which I propose to refer as a vague rumour, as he may not improbably be sensitive on the subject.

My French colleague agrees with me that report is likely to be unfounded, and quoted a recent remark of the Prime Minister that had Italy any possessions in the Ægean islands she would have Greek deputies in the Chamber, a most undesirable element.

[28139] No. 245.

Mr. Dering to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, June 19, 1913.*

ATHENS telegram No. 98, Confidential, of 17th June.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, to whom I alluded to report respecting Astypalæa as

rumour possibly without foundation, replied emphatically that Italian Government have had no negotiations whatever with Greek Government about islands occupied by Italy. Italian Government's attitude was still precisely as defined to you on 2nd June by Ambassador in London, and question of islands, as also that of frontier of Albania, remained in your hands and those of Ambassadors' conference. Any proposals made by conference as to the islands would be examined in due course by Italian Government to see if they could accept them.

His Excellency avoided categorical denial of any desire to retain Astypalæa, but stated that Italian Minister at Athens had received instructions not to open any negotiations respecting islands in Italian occupation. If he had said anything to Greek Government, it could but have been some personal expression of opinion.

(Sent to Athens.)

[28140] No. 246.

Mr. Dering to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 106.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Rome, June 19, 1913.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs told me to-day that reports from Italian Ministers at Belgrade and Sophia were far from reassuring, and that he feared a deadlock in negotiations between the two countries, each of which appeared determined to maintain their own conditions under which they would negotiate.

[28141] No. 247.

Mr. Dering to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Rome, June 19, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 104 of 19th June.

Minister for Foreign Affairs stated to-day that he had no official confirmation of departure of Turkish troops from Cyrenaica, as the Colonial Department had not informed him, but I note that this evening's press telegrams from Derna report departure of a large caravan with 400 Turkish regulars for Bomba and Egyptian frontier.

[28031] No. 248.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 383.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 19, 1913.*

M. CAMBON called on Sir A. Nicolson on the 17th June and said he had received a telegram from M. Pichon to say that the latter agreed to the proposal which I had made in regard to the procedure to be adopted with respect to the delimitation of the southern portion of Albania, on condition that it was treated as dependent on the islands going to Greece. M. Pichon considered that Greece had offered to make a great concession, and that she should therefore be assured that her wishes in respect to the islands would be fully met.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[28149] No. 249.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 323.)
Sir, *Paris, June 19, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a despatch from Sir Paul Harvey, respecting the proceedings of the Balkan Financial Commission.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE.

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Enclosure in No. 249.

Sir P. Harvey to Sir Edward Grey.

(No. 12.)

Sir, *Paris, June* 19, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that the first meeting took place this morning of the Committee of the Balkan Financial Commission appointed to examine the pecuniary claims of the belligerents.

M. Raffalovich, the vice-president of the committee, in his introductory speech sketched out his proposals for beginning the work of the committee, which were to the effect that the delegations of the belligerents should submit to the committee any pecuniary claims which their Governments might desire to present, and "as a corollary" documents enabling the committee to examine the financial and budgetary situations of the belligerent countries, in order to enable the committee to pronounce on the pecuniary claims with full knowledge of all the circumstances.

This was evidently a scarcely veiled attempt to engage the committee from the outset in an enquiry into the financial capacity of Turkey to pay a war indemnity. The previous conversations of Mr. Carnegie and myself with the Russian delegates leave no doubt of this being their intention.

The Turkish delegate made a reserve in general terms as to the programme of work suggested, without indicating, however, on what precise point his reserve had a bearing.

It appeared to me that this reserve was insufficient, and that it was undesirable to leave the committee in the position of tacitly accepting M. Raffalovich's proposals.

I accordingly observed that an enquiry into the financial situation of the belligerents appeared to me at this stage somewhat premature; the proper course appeared to be to begin by examining the pecuniary claims put forward. It would be time enough to proceed to the second step if and when the committee came to the conclusion that the claims were justified and Turkey declared herself unable to meet them.

The German delegate supported my contention, as also the Turkish delegate. M. de Margerie, the president of the commission, who was present, took the objection that M. Raffalovich's proposal had not been that Turkey alone should submit her financial position to examination, but that all the belligerent States should do so. As, however, there is no question of the allies paying an indemnity to Turkey, nor consequently of their financial capacity to do so, this objection was obviously one of pure form.

Finally, M. Raffalovich stated that there was no substantial difference between us, that by the word "corollary" he had not intended a necessarily simultaneous process, and that it was of course open to any delegation to refuse to submit for investigation data concerning its finances. The committee could not, however, be prevented by such refusal from making any investigation it considered pertinent to its mission. There the incident terminated.

I was not agreeably impressed with the attitude of the French delegates during the discussion, which revealed a marked desire to be agreeable to the Russian vice-president, although one of the French delegates told me subsequently that he entirely sympathised with the views I had expressed.

I have, &c.
H. P. HARVEY.

[28151] No. 250.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 325.)

Sir, *Paris, June* 19, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a despatch which I have received from the British delegates to the Balkan Financial Commission, containing some observations on the views of the Russian and French Ministers for Foreign Affairs on the questions of an indemnity to be paid by Turkey to the allies and of the share of the Ottoman Debt to be assumed by the allies.

I have, &c.
FRANCIS BERTIE.

Enclosure in No. 250.

British Delegates to Balkan Financial Commission to Sir Edward Grey.

(No. 13.)

Sir, *Paris, June* 19, 1913.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your telegram No. 238 of the 17th instant to Sir Francis Bertie, we have the honour to offer the following observations on the conversations reported in Sir Francis Bertie's despatch No. 310 and Sir George Buchanan's telegram No. 219.

The suggestion made by the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs is that, in lieu of the payment of an indemnity by Turkey to the allies, the share of the Ottoman Debt to be taken over by the latter should be reduced below the figure at which it might otherwise equitably be fixed.

There is evidently a certain margin, depending on the view taken concerning a number of debatable points, between the maximum and the minimum at which may be assessed the share of the Turkish Debt which the bondholders are entitled to ask should be taken over with the territories ceded by Turkey. But this margin is not very great. A point is soon reached beyond which the reduction of the share of the Debt to be borne by the allies works to the detriment of the bondholders. The security on which the Ottoman Debt was contracted has been very materially reduced by the cession of the European provinces. If the Debt itself is not reduced substantially in the same proportion, it is obvious that the value of the bonds held by Turkey's creditors will be unfavourably affected. It seems, therefore, doubtful whether it would be possible to effect a compromise, such as that suggested by the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, which would be acceptable to the allies without causing unjustifiable loss to the bondholders.

M. Pichon's suggestion is less precise in form. The French Government, according to him, think it possible that a compromise may be found which, while not allowing the payment of a war indemnity as such, may alleviate the allied States from too large a share of the Ottoman Debt.

We have endeavoured to discover from the French delegates exactly what the French Government have in their mind, but it would appear that they have arrived at no clear conception as to the nature of the compromise in question. The French delegates say that there is no idea on the part of their Government of any sacrifice of the bondholders' interests; nor is the idea favourably entertained of the international guarantee of a Turkish loan which would enable Turkey to raise funds on terms more advantageous than would otherwise be open to her. The only practical suggestion made by the French delegates is that, if such a compromise is to be arrived at, it should take the form of the assessment at a substantial figure of such an item in the Balkan claims as that for the maintenance of the Turkish prisoners of war, and perhaps of other claims of a similar nature, to the satisfaction of which Turkey would probably raise no objection of principle.

We may mention that the German delegates have in conversation made a similar suggestion, and directed our attention to the precedent to be found in the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Japan signed at Portsmouth in 1905.

We have, &c.
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.
H. P. HARVEY.

[28268] No. 251.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 290.)

(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, June* 20, 1913.

ŒCUMENICAL Patriarch, prevented by censor from sending you following, has requested me to telegraph it to you as president of the Ambassadorial Conference:—
(End of R.)

"Le Patriarcat œcuménique, ayant appris par voie compétente qu'en Albanie le *statu quo* relatif à ses privilèges ecclésiastiques d'instruction et d'éducation, *statu quo* qui, remontant aux temps les plus reculés, est foulé aux pieds, sollicite que des

mesures soient prises afin que ledit *statu quo*, garanti par les traités internationaux, soit sauvegardé et garanti à l'avenir. Mémorandum relatif sera envoyé prochainement."

[28261] No. 252.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 20.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June* 20, 1913.

ROME telegram No. 105 of 19th June: Italy and Ægean islands.

There is no doubt that the Italian Minister made communication as reported.

How far it represented his personal opinion only must be left to conjecture.

(Sent to Rome.)

[28276] No. 253.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 20.)

(No. 150.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June* 20, 1913.

BULGARIAN reply concerning revision of treaty, which was received here yesterday, appears to be on the line indicated in my despatch No. 100. It amounts to a decided refusal.

The Servian Government, while rejecting the idea of condominium, are renewing their proposal to the Bulgarian Government for a reduction of effectives, which they represent will at all events remove one great danger, and will not affect rights and wrongs of the dispute.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[28278] No. 254.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 20.)

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June* 20, 1913.

MY telegram No. 97 of 13th June.

Minister for Foreign Affairs told me this morning that Montenegro could not remain a spectator of a conflict between Servia and Bulgaria, and that country would not tolerate a Government which refused to intervene on the side of former. Prime Minister was leaving in order to inspect troops at Ipek, and an advance further east at the request of Servians was possible. It looks as if an arrangement had been concluded with Servia to the advantage of Montenegro, though I believe King to be dealing secretly with Bulgaria. Minister for Foreign Affairs added that Bulgaria was making advances to Essad, but that Montenegrin Government had advised him to remain quiet and to come to an understanding with Provisional Government at Vallona, accepting their offer to be Minister of War. Unfortunately that offer had been withdrawn at the request of Austrian and Italian consuls, and he was afraid Essad might take some precipitate action out of vexation. He added that Montenegrin Government had originally advised him to make himself ruler of Albania, but had subsequently urged him to remain quiet for fear of provoking Austrian and Italian intervention.

[28281] No. 255.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 20.)

(No. 225.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June* 20, 1913.

MY telegram No. 218 of 15th June.

Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that, while Servian Government will only accept arbitration on condition that it is not restricted to points raised by treaty, Bulgarian Government insist on its being so restricted. Russian Government is using all its influence to induce latter to accept arbitration on all points in dispute.

Bulgarian Minister, whom I had seen previously, represented the matter somewhat differently, and said that if Servian Government did not modify its present attitude his Government would look on a conflict as almost inevitable.

[28279] No. 256.

Viscount Kitchener to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 20.)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, June* 20, 1913.

YOUR telegram No. 72 of 20th June.

Rumour of withdrawal of Turks reported at Sollum, but not yet confirmed. I will let you and Rome know if any arrive there.

[27983] No. 257.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 271.)
(Telegraphic.) *Code.* *Foreign Office, June* 20, 1913.

BALKAN Financial Commission at Paris ask for copies of any contract or concession held by British subjects from Ottoman Government in respect of ceded territories. Please send as soon as possible any that you can obtain, and report by telegraph names of British subjects or companies now holding them.

[28370] No. 258.

*Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Carnegie.**

(No. 243.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 20, 1913.

YOU should inform Minister for Foreign Affairs that I suggested to German Ambassador possibility of a solution of South Albanian question by a commission of demarcation that should take Stilos as a starting-point on coast, but decide question of hinterland, especially Koritza, by ethnographical and geographical conditions.

German Ambassador said he was afraid Austria would not accept, and that only concession possible on her part was district occupied by Kutzo-Vlachs, and this the Ambassador considered offered only chance of agreement. I said I feared it was too little.

I put suggestion subsequently before Austrian and Italian Ambassadors, but I have little hope that Austrian Government will agree, and, if so, it will be of no use for me to put the proposal forward. I have no other suggestion to make.

(To Paris only.)

If Minister for Foreign Affairs has, as stated in your telegram No. 80 of 17th June, reason to know that Koritza can be obtained for Greece, now is the time for him to act upon this knowledge.

[28138] No. 259.

Sir Edward Grey to Viscount Kitchener.

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 20, 1913.

FOLLOWING from His Majesty's representative at Rome, 19th June:—

"The press states to-day that general officer commanding at Derna has been negotiating for ten days with Aziz for evacuation by Turkish troops, who are now stated to be on their way to Sollum."

[27723] No. 260.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir R. Paget.

(No. 37.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 20, 1913.

THE Servian Chargé d'Affaires came to see Sir L. Mallet on the 11th June.

He complained very bitterly of the Bulgarian attitude, and expressed his belief that they were preparing for a conflict and were determined not to listen to reason.

* Also to Sir G. Buchanan (No. 466).

He mentioned places in occupation of Servian troops to which Bulgarian troops had been sent. In one case they had withdrawn on representations being made; in another, where they were in superior force, they had refused to withdraw.

He explained at some length the reasons for which Servia must continue to demand revision of the treaty, and when Sir L. Mallet suggested that they should arbitrate the question of the division of territory or the question of revision of the treaty, and that the offer to do so would improve their frontier very greatly and would show that they were not aggressive, he set it aside and continued to argue in favour of the Servian contention.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[29001] No. 261.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Goschen.

(No. 199.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 20, 1913.

I TOLD the German Ambassador to-day of the suggestion of a commission to decide the southern frontier of Albania, taking Stilos as the starting point on the coast.

He said that he was sure that Austria would not accept this suggestion; but he thought that she might be induced to concede the Koutzo-Vlach territory to Greece, and that Roumania's consent to this could be obtained.

I said that I feared that this was too small a concession to secure a solution, and I had no other suggestion to make.

In the course of this conversation the Ambassador said that Germany had been credited with strong Greek sympathies in this matter, but he thought that the report had given rise to complications rather than otherwise. After all the concessions that had been made, Austria could not be expected to give way about Koritza.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[29002] No. 262.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.

(No. 127.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 20, 1913.

THE Austrian Ambassador informed me to-day that he must state at the next *réunion* that his Government could not accept the proposed formula respecting the protection of Albanian minorities in Servian territory. The formula agreed upon previously had been part of the whole arrangements under which Djakova was ceded to Servia. It had been altered improperly by M. Hartwig. The Austrian Government had not at the time pressed their demand to have it restored to its original form, because it had been represented that the alteration was of small importance; but now that the Russian Government had made a point of saying that the alteration was definitely approved by them, it was clear that there was some importance to be attached to it. In any case, Count Berchtold felt that in the interest of the proceedings of the *réunions* the original declaration should be upheld.

I said that I was reproached from two sides in a similar way. I was reproached because the Austrian Government delayed the confirmation of the promise to Servia about access to the Adriatic, which it was an obligation of good faith that we should make without varying the terms already agreed to. The confirmation was suspended because Austria wished to agree with Russia, not upon an alteration of its terms, but upon a definition. Whether their definition, when agreed upon, should be communicated to Servia or not had not been discussed. With regard to the second reproach, that the declaration about minorities had been altered and should be confirmed in its original form, I could only deal with it in exactly the same way, by suggesting that Austria and Russia should agree upon a definition. In both cases I held that the original decisions of the *réunion* should be repeated unaltered.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[27983] No. 263.

Foreign Office to Board of Trade.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 20, 1913.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris,* forwarding a request from the British delegate on the Balkan Financial Commission to be furnished with copies of any contracts or concessions held by British subjects in respect of enterprises conducted in the territories ceded by the Ottoman Government to the allied Balkan States.

I am also to forward copy of a telegram which Sir E. Grey has addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject,† and to ask at the same time that copies of any such documents as may exist in the archives of your Department may be forwarded to this Office.

In the event of the records of the Board of Trade in this respect being incomplete, I am to suggest that it would be well to insert a notice in the next issue of the "Board of Trade Journal," and in the principal daily newspapers, inviting the holders of all such contracts or concessions to furnish copies of them to this Department without delay, and stating the purpose for which these are required.

In a subsequent private letter, Sir P. Harvey asks that he may also be provided unofficially with a statement of any foreign enterprises, such as railways, in the same territories in which British capital is largely interested, in order that he may watch the interests of the British subjects concerned on the committee on concessions of the commission which is now sitting, and I am accordingly to request that any information on this subject which may be in the possession of the Board may be communicated to this Office simultaneously, and that, if it be necessary, a reference to this point may be included in the proposed notice, which, Sir E. Grey would suggest, should be prepared in your Department.

[28341] No. 264.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 116.)

Sir, *Belgrade, June* 15, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith translation of proceedings in the Skupshtina on the 13th instant, which are not without interest.

Public opinion in Servia has undergone a very considerable change since receipt by King Peter of the telegram from the Czar, and has become less bellicose and uncompromising. M. Pashitch's phrase to the effect that "in case there should be a change of policy the Skupshtina would first be consulted," although prefaced by the remark that "Servia's policy remains unchanged," implies that the Government are feeling the pressure from Russia, and do not stand so firm and unconditional to their policy that under circumstances it might not be modified. This impression is confirmed by an article in the "Samouprava" of yesterday's date, which says Servia is willing to submit to the arbitration of the Czar, and hopes that the Emperor will take into account Servia's sacrifices and victories during the war. There is no mention of any condition to the effect that Servia could only agree to arbitration provided it were on general principles, and not merely on the basis of the treaty, as was stated by M. Pashitch some three days ago (see my telegram No. 142 of the 14th instant).

In my despatch No. 85 of the 24th April I had the honour to suggest that, whatever attitude the Servians might adopt, it would be found in the end that they would be amenable to orders from Russia, and that the whole question, therefore, lay in the hands of the Czar; but, apart from this, although there has been considerable blustering, any real desire to try conclusions with Bulgaria has of late—when the Servians have realised that Bulgaria was less exhausted than they had hoped—been far less prominent than just at first. It will probably have been observed that, although the Servian Government have on one or two occasions sent peremptory notes to the Bulgarian Government, they have been careful to avoid anything in the nature of an ultimatum, and yet they must have been aware that every day that passed was a gain for Bulgaria and decreased their own chances of success.

Under the circumstances it may be assumed that the Russian intervention is

* No. 237. † No. 257.

welcome, nor is there any likelihood whatever that, if the award of the Czar be given against Servia, she will, as M. Pashitch is so fond of suggesting, cut herself adrift from Russia and in future throw in her lot with Austria-Hungary. Some disappointment and grumbling there must, of course, be, but nothing sufficient seriously to shake Russian influence.

I have, &c.
RALPH PAGET.

Enclosure in No. 264.

Proceedings in the Skupshtina on June 13, 1913.

(Translation.)

IN reply to a question put to him by M. Draskovitch (Young Radical) and M. Marinkovitch (Progressist), M. Pashitch said that up to the present the Servian Government had not been approached by the Great Powers with regard to demobilisation.

In reply to a question put to him by M. Draskovitch respecting the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier question, M. Pashitch replied that "the Servian Government continue to maintain the policy (not ceding any of the conquered territory) resolved upon by the Skupshtina. Should it be found necessary to depart from the present policy, the Government would not do so without previously consulting and without the consent of the Skupshtina."

M. Draskovitch declared himself dissatisfied with this reply. He stated that the policy defined by the Skupshtina must not be changed; that the Government lacks energy and decision; that their note to Bulgaria respecting the revision of the treaty is still (after twenty days) unanswered; that no reply has either been received to the note respecting the conference at Salonica; that the same result is to be expected with regard to the Servian proposal for demobilisation. All the Government have done up to this has served neither to clear up nor to improve the situation. The vital interests of Servia must not be sacrificed, and they must not be put in the hands of foreigners.

M. Marinkovitch declared that the Czar's telegram is a proof that the Servian interests are once more in foreign hands, and that, as has been so often the case, foreigners are to decide on Servia's interests.

M. Trifkovitch (ex-Minister-President, Old Radical) stated: "This we will never allow!"

M. Marinkovitch concluded by declaring that "the Skupshtina must never allow Servian policy to be led by Russia," and put the following interpellation: "Should a discussion of the dispute take place in St. Petersburgh, the negotiations should not be restricted to the Serb-Bulgarian delimitation question, but should include the whole of the territory conquered by the allies."

After saying that some of the questions put to him were not in the order of the day, M. Pashitch stated that the Government will reply to the above interpellation. The Government had hitherto carried on a Servian policy, which, owing to the importance of the interests of the country, demanded a certain measure of caution. Should some day the Skupshtina not approve the Government's attitude, the Cabinet would immediately tender its resignation and make place for anybody who believes he can better guide Servia's policy.

[28324] No. 265.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 531.)

Sir, *Constantinople, June* 16, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's vice-consul at Dedeagatch, No. 12, with reference to the movements of Bulgarian troops.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 265.

Vice-Consul Badetti to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 12.)

Sir, *Dédéagatch, le 7 juin*, 1913.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que depuis mercredi matin nous avons un mouvement sérieux de troupes.

Le corps d'armée bulgare qui se trouvait à Gallipoli et Boulaïr transite actuellement notre village, se dirigeant le long du parcours de la ligne Jonction–Salonique–Constantinople. Le commandant en chef a poursuivi d'ici en automobile.

Infanterie, artillerie, cavalerie, équipage des trains, génie, munitions, provisions, ambulances, voire même les voitures cuisines, se suivent sans discontinuer qu'à de rares intervalles.

Les deux steamers bulgares "Varna" et "Boris," de leur côté, font la navette avec leur plein en soldats pour Cavalla.

J'ai remarqué que les défilés se font d'ensemble, l'allure assez crâne, malgré une campagne bien pénible durant l'hiver.

L'animation demeure très grande en ville. La discipline étant sévère, l'armée a une bonne conduite, et aucune plainte qui soit en ma connaissance.

La sécurité aussi est bonne dans les environs; ce que l'on doit souhaiter, c'est la reprise des communications, afin de permettre au commerce de se mettre à l'œuvre, car le pays est bien éprouvé.

Veuillez, &c.
G. BADETTI.

[28329] No. 266.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 536.)

Sir, *Constantinople, June* 17, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's vice-consul at Cavalla, reporting on the situation in that town and the movements of Bulgarian troops.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 266.

Acting Vice-Consul Morgan to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 26. Confidential.)

Sir, *Cavalla, June* 9, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Bulgarian steamers "Varna" and "Boris" arrived here with troops from Dedeagatch on the 6th June, and again on the 7th June. Yesterday, the 8th June, the Russian steamer "Jerusalem" brought here some 4,000 infantry from Dedeagatch, and to-day the steamship "Boris" brought some 300 horses and 150 men from the same port.

Up to the present the number of troops brought by sea from Bulair and Dedeagatch would be about 20,000 all of whom subsequently left for Drama.

Meanwhile the railway has been continually used for the transport of troops, &c., from Thrace to Macedonia.

The transport of troops by sea to Cavalla is expected to finish in three or four days. Local Bulgarians imply that Bulgaria will then be in a position, and will begin, to treat energetically with the allies on all points of difference.

Owing to the existence of cholera at Pravishta most of the Bulgarian troops there have been withdrawn from the town, and are camped on the surrounding hills.

A strict censorship of letters leaving Cavalla still continues here. No one may enter or leave the town without a permit. The port also remains closed, although, if notice be previously given, and permission obtained, vessels bringing food-stuffs may unload such cargo here, but may not land or take on board passengers, or discharge or load any other cargo, including mails. No communication between captain or crew and

persons on shore will be permitted, and all vessels arriving at Cavalla must do so in the daytime, and withdraw from the port at night.

I have, &c.
JAMES MORGAN.

[28315] No. 267.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Salonica, June 20, 1913.*

KING OF GREECE left for Athens this afternoon.

[28496] No. 268.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 218.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 21, 1913.*

I GATHER that the idea of the headquarters staff is to throw their full force in the first instance against the Greek army round Salonica. They would create an incident and endeavour to throw the blame on the Greeks. This is the real reason for the constant notes of protest to the Greek Government respecting the treatment of Bulgarians in and around Salonica.

[28497] No. 269.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 219.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 21, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 213 of 17th June.

Servian reply to Bulgarian note respecting disarmament will be handed in to-day.

Servian Government do not agree to Bulgarian proposals of condominium in the occupied territories.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[28498] No. 270.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 220. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 21, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 216 of 18th June.

I have just seen Prime Minister. He states that Bulgarian Government cannot admit arbitration outside treaty or agree to to revise treaty. If Russia wishes to avoid war she must exercise her influence at Belgrade, and oblige Servian Government to accept above terms.

He states that it is not a case for Great Powers. Emperor of Russia is arbitrator under treaty, and they look to His Imperial Majesty to decide the outstanding differences within the limits of that document.

Even if Prime Ministers of other three Powers go to St. Petersburgh, he will not go unless he receives previous assurance on above-mentioned lines.

He added that the question of peace or war would have to be decided now within a very few days.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[28952] No. 271.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 123.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 21, 1913.*

WE are much concerned at the outlook. You should express the hope that the Bulgarian Government will reply favourably to the Russian invitation to go to St. Petersburgh.

[28952] No. 272.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir R. Paget.

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 21, 1913.*

I TRUST Servian Government will not make any reserves about accepting Russian arbitration, and thereby lose the chance of avoiding war. You should express this hope.

[28493] No. 273.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 228.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 21, 1913.*

ASSISTANT Minister for Foreign Affairs, to whom I gave *aide-mémoire* embodying your telegram No. 466 of 20th June, said that he would communicate it to Minister for Foreign Affairs, but that he personally saw no way out of the difficulty. Were Italy and Austria to summon Greece to accept proposed frontier, latter might reply that the question was one which concerned all the Powers, and that Italy could not act separately from all the rest.

The question was, moreover, his Excellency added, complicated by acute differences existing between the allies. Servia and Greece wanted to acquire territory that would make them limitrophe States, and the acquisition of Koritza by Servia [*sic*] would enable them to attain this object without calling on Bulgaria to cede Monastir—a proceeding to which she would never consent. It was possible that Austria's reason for insisting on Koritza being included in Albania was to complicate matters between the allies.

[28499] No. 274.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 221.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Sophia, June 21, 1913.*

SERVIAN Minister leaving to-night for Belgrade, and he will accompany Servian Prime Minister if he goes to St. Petersburgh. He is to be appointed Minister to Russia.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[28495] No. 275.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 151.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 22, 1913.*

IN the absence of the Prime Minister I gave substance of your telegram No. 99 of 21st June to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. He asked me whether a similar representation had been made to Bulgarian Government, as Servia was not the only one to name conditions. I said I was unable to answer his question. He then said that Russian Government were putting very strong pressure on the Servian Government to submit to arbitration unconditionally, and there were signs that Russia was leaning towards Bulgaria and favouring the Bulgarian view. He scarcely thought

that Servia would be able to submit, and the result would probably be that M. Pashitch would resign. He thought this next week would be most critical.

The tenor of the last Servian note to the Bulgarian Government is to the effect that Servia proposes a reduction of the effectives unconditionally and without delay, as they constitute a danger and jeopardise a pacific solution; that with regard to the proposal for a condominium it was arranged previously to the war that territory taken by the Servian troops should for the time being remain in Servian occupation, whilst territory taken by Servian and Bulgarian troops should remain in joint occupation. The proposal for a condominium therefore merely appeared as an excuse to avoid demobilisation. It is further proposed that representatives of the four States should meet at St. Petersburgh to endeavour to arrive at a direct arrangement. Should this fail, that Russian arbitration should be requested on a new basis comprising all differences between the allies, without, however, extending to questions of vital importance to any State.

Servian idea is that they could prove it to be of vital importance to them to possess right bank of Vardar, whilst Bulgaria would be unable to show that it is vitally important to herself to possess the territory in dispute.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[28514] No. 276.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 230. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 22, 1913.*

PRINCE NICHOLAS of Greece told me last night that he had found Emperor very ill-disposed towards Bulgarians, and His Royal Highness has naturally done his best to incense His Majesty against them.

He had himself given His Majesty detailed account of their disloyal conduct during war, and of their barbarous treatment of Greek inhabitants of districts occupied by their troops. He had further impressed on Emperor how dangerous it would be for Russia to allow Bulgaria to become too powerful, as she already considered herself strong enough to disregard Russia's wishes, and would, if she acquired all territory which she claimed, soon turn her eyes towards Straits and Constantinople. This last argument had apparently carried weight with Emperor.

By His Majesty's desire His Royal Highness yesterday saw Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is still confined to his room. Latter had said that Russia had exhausted all her means of pressure, and that we were now on eve of second Balkan war. Only hope lay in rendering it impossible for Balkan States to obtain financial assistance from abroad, and his Excellency was telegraphing to Paris urging French Government to prevent them raising a loan on French market.

On my observing that Bulgaria might be induced to abandon her claim to Salonica, and thus to satisfy Greek aspirations, but that it was impossible to expect her to give up Monastir as well, His Royal Highness said that it was vital question for Greece and Servia to have a common frontier, and that King of Servia had told him that he would fight sooner than withdraw from Monastir. Bulgaria could not make good her claims to both Macedonia and Thrace, as, if former was Bulgarian, ethnographically latter could be claimed by Greece on same grounds. Bulgaria wanted to have everything, and only way to restrain her and to prevent war was to get Roumania to threaten military action, and he had urged this course on Minister for Foreign Affairs. Attempt made by Austria to win over Roumania to side of Bulgaria had failed, and Roumania ought now to be urged to act energetically. Russian Minister at Bucharest had already told Government that it was to interest both of Russia and Roumania to prevent war.

From some subsequent remarks of His Royal Highness I gathered that Greece will try and induce Roumania not only to occupy Bulgarian territory, as she proposes to do, but to take an active part in war. His Royal Highness also evidently hopes that Turks will threaten Bulgarians in the rear, and thus prevent the concentration of all their forces against Greeks and Servians.

Prince Nicholas is to see Emperor again this afternoon, before His Majesty departs for a cruise in Finnish waters.

[28527] No. 277.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 60.)
Sir, *Bucharest, June 14, 1913.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 76 of to-day, I now learn that the order for calling up of the reserves of the three army corps was actually given on the 12th instant by the King, who was at Constantza, but that later in the day His Majesty, on learning by telegraph from M. Maioresco of the Emperor of Russia's telegrams to the King of the Bulgarians and the King of Servia, countermanded the order.

I have, &c.
G. BARCLAY.

[28528] No. 278.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 61. Confidential.)
Sir, *Bucharest, June 15, 1913.*

SIR HENRY BAX-IRONSIDE has been good enough to forward to me a copy of his despatch No. 98, Confidential, of the 4th instant, in which he reported that there was reason to believe that the Roumanian and Bulgarian Governments were exchanging views as to their future policy, and that the Austro-Hungarian Legation was privy to the negotiations.

Except for the frequent visits of the Austrian Minister to the Minister for Foreign Affairs which have characterised the past week, and at which the desire of Austria for an arrangement between Roumania and Bulgaria has doubtless been urged, I have so far seen no signs here of any such negotiations. There have certainly been no indications of any special activity on the part of M. Kalinkoff, the Bulgarian Minister in Bucharest. At the weekly diplomatic reception on the 10th instant M. Kalinkoff did no more, I believe, than enquire of M. Maioresco as to the meaning of the phrase in the recent circular of Roumania to the Powers—Roumania could not remain indifferent in the event of a conflict between the Balkan allies—and was told in reply that Roumania would mobilise. At the same weekly reception I understand that the Servian Minister, under instructions from Belgrade, enquired of M. Maioresco whether there was any truth in the report that negotiations were proceeding between the Roumanian and Bulgarian Governments, and M. Maioresco categorically denied the report. It is true, as I reported by telegraph on the 13th instant, that the Russian Minister at one time suspected that the Austrian Minister had made proposals on behalf of the Bulgarian Government. The Russian Minister had been unremitting in his efforts to combat M. Maioresco's inclination to bargain Roumania's neutrality against territorial concessions from Bulgaria, and at his interview with M. Maioresco at the weekly diplomatic reception on the 10th instant he had noticed that his efforts seemed to have borne fruit. When, however, he saw M. Maioresco on the afternoon of the 12th instant he found his Excellency as much in favour of a bargain of the kind as ever. In the interval between M. Schebeko's two visits Prince Fürstenberg had had an interview with M. Maioresco, and M. Schebeko attributed the latter's change of attitude to something that had passed between Prince Fürstenberg and M. Maioresco. M. Schebeko, however, now has reason to think that the object of Prince Fürstenberg's visit to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, which has given rise to his suspicions, was to dissuade the Roumanian Government from their intention of mobilising.

I have, &c.
G. BARCLAY.

[28591] No. 279.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 103.)
Sir, *Sophia, June 15, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 900 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of an interesting despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Gilliat-Smith, reporting incidents which have lately occurred at Varna, and which tend to show a lack

of discipline in some of the Bulgarian regiments, and some discontent at the prospect of a war with Servia.

I have, &c.
H. O. BAX-IRONSIDE.

Enclosure in No. 279.

Vice-Consul Gilliat-Smith to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 22.)
Sir, *Varna, June* 11, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that the following incidents have lately occurred which tend to prove that the discipline of some of the regiments is not of the best, and that a war with Servia would not be popular:—

Upon the arrival of a Philippopolis regiment yesterday evening some of the inhabitants of Varna went to meet them with flowers. One girl attempted to give a bunch to a soldier, but an officer snatched it from her hand and threw it away. The soldier then tried to strike the officer with the butt end of his rifle, but was restrained by his companions and pushed back into the ranks shouting that he would shoot the officer on the first opportunity if war broke out. He was not then arrested.

Last night at the barracks another soldier held a violent speech to his comrades in the hearing of officers, at the conclusion of which the majority of the soldiers rose and clapped their hands by way of approval of the sentiments expressed. These were that they had been fighting the Turks for the last eight months, that their families had not been cared for as they had been led to believe, and that it was too much to demand that they should now go and fight against their brothers the Servians. Much the same ideas are expressed among certain classes of the civil population.

Allusions were also made to the pay of those in command, which is trebled if they are on active service, and otherwise doubled during the entire duration of the war, whereas the private soldier receives practically nothing. They demanded that they should be allowed to return to their families.

The orator was arrested, and many others have been temporarily detained. Strict measures are being taken to prevent concerted agglomerations of troops in the town, and it looks as if the matter will not have any further immediate results.

Among the lower classes of the population rumours are afloat concerning the conduct of officers and soldiers on the field of battle. The former are accused of punishing the latter for pilfering from the pockets of the dead, and of themselves appropriating such money and valuables instead of restoring them to the families of the deceased.

Local opinion is much commenting upon the article entitled "Russia and the Allies" which appeared in the "Mir" of the 26th May (o.s.).

In this connection wild rumours are current to the effect that upon war breaking out between Bulgaria and Servia Russia would immediately occupy the ports of Varna and Burgas.

I have, &c.
BERNARD GILLIAT-SMITH.

[28592] No. 280.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 104.)
Sir, *Sophia, June* 15, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from the military attaché to His Majesty's Legation, containing an interesting account of the military and provisional civil governments established in the Ottoman territory occupied by Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
H. O. BAX-IRONSIDE.

Enclosure in No. 280.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lyon to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Sophia, June* 12, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to attach translations of the laws for the military government of Losengrad (Thrace), and for the provisional civil government that was established during the late war both in Thrace and Macedonia.

At the time that mobilisation was ordered Bulgaria was placed under military law ("en état de siège"). Provisional regulations were then issued, showing the extent to which civil authority was to be replaced by military government. These regulations defined the powers of the military authorities, and the procedure regarding the trial by military courts of persons not usually subject to military law. A translation of these regulations has already been sent to the War Office.

Early in December, about six weeks after the capture of Kirk Kilissa, the country of Thrace was placed under a regular military government. A Governor was appointed with the title of Military Governor of Losengrad, the name under which Kirk Kilissa will henceforth be known, and a law was published for the administration of the country (Appendix I).

The principle adopted was to maintain as far as possible the original Turkish sub-divisions of the country, and at the same time to divide it up in a manner that approximated to the administrative divisions of Bulgaria. In this way it was hoped that the change from military to civil government that would take place at the end of the war would be facilitated.

Bulgaria is divided into departments, districts and communes. The departments, of which there are twelve, are the largest administrative units in the country, and each of them is presided over by a prefect and a council. The communes are the smallest administrative units. They are independent, and are administered by communal councils. The links between the communal councils and the prefects of the departments are the sub-prefects who preside over the seventy-two districts, and who are also the heads of the civil police.

In Turkey the largest administrative unit is the vilayet, which is sub-divided into sanjaks and kazas.

The conquered territory of Thrace contained six sanjaks, and by uniting them in pairs three departments were formed by the Bulgarians. There were also thirty-two kazas, and these were turned into the same number of districts. No alteration of the Turkish administrative boundaries has thus taken place, and no administrative units to correspond with the communes have been formed.

Similarly, military government was established in Macedonia, the country being divided into four departments and twenty-six districts. A great part of Macedonia was, however, occupied by the Greeks and the Servians when the Bulgarians withdrew the bulk of their troops to Chatalja and Bulair, and I believe that the Bulgarians found that it was impossible to carry on government in such circumstances.

When the Military Governors were appointed, their chief duty was to make sure that the army of operations received its supplies. They had, therefore, to arrange for the collecting of the food and transport available in the country, and to safeguard the lines of communications. The latter task was not a difficult one, the country having been quickly cleared of hostile bands, and the inhabitants that remained in the villages being friendly.

At the beginning of January, conditions had so far improved in the conquered territories, that a provisional civil administration (Appendix II) was established both in Thrace and Macedonia. This provisional civil administration gradually displaced the military government, and has been engaged in carrying on the ordinary work of civil administration under the same conditions of military law as exist in Bulgaria at the present time. Particular attention is being paid to the repatriation of the country, and to the most equitable manner of adjusting taxation.

I have, &c.
F. LYON, *Military Attaché.*

Appendix I.

Law for the Military Government of Losengrad.

1. IN order to maintain law and order in the district of Losengrad, and to facilitate the task of those services which provide the army with necessary articles, the post of Military Governor has been instituted.

2. The Military Governor is appointed by royal decree, after selection by the chief of the general staff of the army. With regard to troops and military departments with which he may be brought in contact, he has the same powers as a general of division.

3. The military government of Losengrad includes the sanjaks of Losengrad, Adrianople, Dedeagatch, Rodosto, Gallipoli, and Gumuljina, which include thirty-two kazas. The above six sanjaks form for administrative purposes three departments, viz. :—

(1.) Rodosto, composed of the sanjaks of Rodosto and Gallipoli.
(2.) Dedeagatch, composed of the sanjaks of Gumuljina and Dedeagatch.
(3.) Losengrad, composed of the sanjaks of Losengrad and Adrianople.
The existing kazas keep their present boundaries, and are to become districts.

4. The departments are administered by prefects, whilst the districts are administered by sub-prefects.

5. The appointments of prefect and sub-prefect are made by the Minister of the Interior on the recommendation of the Military Governor.

6. The Military Governor administers the country in accordance with this statute. The military authorities who assist him being appointed by the general staff of the army of operations.

7. The Military Governor is the head of the military government, and as long as the country is under military law it is under his orders. He is responsible for the administrative and the police services, for requisitions, and for the transport of ammunition and supplies between the different stations on the lines of communication.

8. Troops in the country under his jurisdiction, which do not form a part of any particular army, must obey his orders.

9. The Military Governor is responsible that the sick and wounded who are sent back from the hospitals that are with the army are sent to the base.

10. He gives all the assistance that he is able to the intendance general of the army for the purpose of collecting supplies.

11. He takes care that the roads, bridges, and buildings that are indispensable for the requirements of the intendance general are kept in repair. In order to achieve this, the Military Governor recruits a sufficiently large number of men, and procures the necessary implements.

12. At the same time he assists all medical and other services which are subordinate to the chief intendant of the army in the performance of their duties, in the evacuation of the wounded and their treatment in hospital, in the formation of transport for the army, the organisation of the lines of communication, and in providing escorts for prisoners.

13. In case of internal trouble or insurrection, the Military Governor, with the assistance of the local troops and police, takes prompt and energetic steps to re-establish order. In this case, if necessary, the Governor takes personal command of the troops.

14. The Military Governor has supreme control over the sanitary arrangements within his province, and takes steps to prevent epidemics.

15. He must preserve and improve the natural resources of the country in accordance with the laws of the realm.

16. He is to interest himself in increasing the wealth of the country, and the well-being of its inhabitants, by protecting agriculture trade and industry.

17. He is to assist the representatives of the financial department in collecting the different taxes in accordance with the laws of the realm, in the proportion that it is considered is equitable and within the power of the province to contribute.

18. He is responsible, with the help of the representative of the financial department, for deciding what taxes shall be imposed and in what proportion, until such time as normal civil government shall be established in the country.

19. He is to take care that neither the soldiers nor the people are imposed upon. In order to do this he will settle prices and examine the weights used.

Appendix II.

Provisional Organisation for the Civil Administration of the Conquered Territory.

A PROVISIONAL civil administration is established in the territories conquered by the Bulgarian army. The objects of this administration are to maintain law and order in the country, to safeguard government, public and private property, and lastly, to ensure that the needs of the army of operation are satisfied.

The duties of the provisional civil administration are as follows :—

1. To assure the means of supply and to facilitate the movements of the army of operations.

2. To carry on the ordinary work of civil administration with the assistance of the military authorities.

3. To collect such statistics as will be of use later on when the permanent government of the country is organised.

4. To guarantee by means of prompt and efficacious measures the inviolability of government, public and private property, and to preserve all the state books and archives, particularly those which concern government and public interests.

5. To guarantee religious liberty to persons of all nationalities inhabiting the country, and also to the religious and educational establishments that are established there.

6. To exercise the necessary control over the just imposing and collecting of taxes in accordance with local fiscal laws.

It is desirable to interfere as little as possible with the ordinary social and economic habits of life of the inhabitants of the locality. It is also recommended that existing administrative boundaries be preserved, keeping the departments, with their existing administrative and judicial councils, as the largest administrative units.

The provisional civil administration will also have the following duties :—

(a.) *Administrative Duties.*

1. To take steps gradually to introduce civil administration into the departments and districts.

2. To take immediate steps for the formation of a local police force.

3. To ensure the regular working of posts and all other means of communication.

4. To decide questions regarding the arrest by local authorities of suspected persons.

5. To facilitate the repatriation of the population in the conquered districts.

(b.) *Financial Duties.*

1. Gradually to improve the methods of imposing and collecting taxes.

2. To take account of local circumstances and, if necessary, to postpone the collecting of certain existing taxes.

3. To approve all public expenditure made from local funds on account of existing laws and customs.

4. To judge of whether the collecting and expenditure of these funds is properly carried out.

(c.) *Social and Economic Duties.*

1. To ensure the prompt organisation of administrative councils, and strictly to control their activities.

2. The provisional government approves the expenditure voted by the councils, and has the right to dissolve the council or to dismiss and replace the members.

(d.) *Judicial Duties.*

1. To supervise the acts of the local administrative and judicial authorities in order to establish the necessary administration of justice, and to modify judicial procedure in such ways as experience may show to be desirable.

2. To delegate persons or committees to enquire into questions of all kinds.

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[28569] No. 281.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 538. Confidential.)

Sir, *Constantinople, June* 16, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 585 of the 31st December last and of your subsequent despatch No. 161 of the 27th ultimo, which latter contained copies of correspondence relative to the protection of the interests of holders of Turkish Treasury Bills as well as the copy of a letter received by your Department from the National Bank of Turkey, in which Sir H. Babington Smith points out, that with the exception of a small sum paid last May, the Turkish Government have failed to meet their obligations, as defined by article 7 of the contract made with the Government by the National Bank.

This contract, of which a copy was forwarded in my despatch No. 160 of the 21st February, 1912, was concluded in view of the advance of £T. 1,500,000 made by the National Bank and the Banque de Salonique against the issue of Treasury Bills for a like amount. By article 7 of this contract the Government undertook to assign exclusively, after the payment of existing affectations, the total revenues of the customs of Salonica, Smyrna, Adrianople, Broussa, and Beyrout for the payment of these Treasury Bills.

In conformity with the instructions conveyed in the despatch under reply, I have caused enquiries to be made with regard to the total amount of revenue collected by the custom-houses of the districts mentioned during the financial year (1912–13), and I now am able to submit the following figures :—

Beyrout and dependencies, viz. : Jaffa, Haiffa, Sidon, and Tripoli (1st (14th) March, 1912, to 28th February (13th March), 1913) :—

	£T.
Imports, 8 per cent.	469,883
Surtax, 3 per cent.	167,056
Export, 1 per cent.	15,600
Other sources	24,520
Total	677,059

Salonica and dependencies, viz. : Uskub, Kavalla, Pérépé, Ellasonia, and Barakalu Ova (1st (14th) March, 1912, to end of August 1912) :—

	£T.
Import, 8 per cent.	197,700
Surtax, 3 per cent.	72,543
Export, 1 per cent.	6,384
Other sources	3,733
Total	280,360

Adrianople (1st (14th) March, 1912, to end of July 1912) :—

	£T.
Import, 8 per cent.	12,826
Surtax, 3 per cent.	4,386
Export, 1 per cent.	13
Other sources	143
Total	17,368

Broussa, viz. : Moudania, Panderma (1st (14th) March, 1912, to 28th February (13th March), 1913) :—

	£T.
Imports, 8 per cent.	28,723
Surtax, 3 per cent.	10,700
Export 1 per cent.	10,100
Other sources	555
Total	50,078

Smyrna and dependencies, viz. :—

	£T.
Imports, 8 per cent.	369,484
Surtax, 3 per cent.	131,707
Export, 1 per cent.	58,128
Other sources	10,129
Total	569,448

General total :—

	Import, Export, other Sources.	Surtax, 3 per cent.
	£T.	£T.
Beyrout	510,003	167,056
Salonica	207,817	72,543
Adrianople	12,982	4,386
Moudania, Panderma	39,378	10,700
Smyrna	437,741	131,707
Total	1,207,921	386,392

Although these figures of actual revenue have been procurable, it has not been possible to ascertain how these receipts have been applied, but it is more than probable that they have been appropriated in order to meet the extraordinary expenditure entailed in consequence of the state of war.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

[28595] No. 282.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 107.)

Sir, *Sophia, June* 17, 1913.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 210 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report that on that date Dr. Danef succeeded in forming a coalition Ministry, and the necessary Royal ukase was signed on the 16th. The composition of the Ministry is as follows :—

Foreign Affairs and Public Worship, Dr. S. Danef, President of the Council.
Interior and Public Health, M. Michel I. Madjarof.
Public Instruction, M. Ivan Peyef.
Finance, M. Theodore Theodorof.
Justice, M. Peter Abrachef.
War, Major-General Stilian Kovatchef.
Commerce, Industry, and Labour, M. Athanase Bourof.
Agriculture and State Lands, M. Alexander Ludskanof.
Public Works, M. Dimitri Yablanski.
Railways, Posts, and Telegraphs, M. S. Dimitri Christof.

Of the above, MM. Abrachef, Ludskanof, and Christof belong, together with Dr. Danef himself, to the Zankovist party, while MM. Madjarof, Peyef, Theodorof, Bourof, and Yablanski are members of the Nationalist (M. Gueshof's) party, and the Minister of War professes no party allegiance whatever.

The departure of M. Gueshof from political life is to be sincerely regretted, especially from a British point of view. Except for his resignation, there are few changes in the Cabinet. The chief of these is the appointment of M. Madjarof, now Minister in London, to the important post of Minister of the Interior. M. Madjarof is a brother-in-law of M. Theodorof, the Finance Minister, whose presence in the Cabinet is necessary owing to his knowledge of the financial questions now under discussion at Paris. It is understood that M. Theodorof insisted on the inclusion of his brother-in-law in the new Cabinet. M. Madjarof's successor in London has not yet been decided upon.

Dr. Danef's personality is well known to you from his recent visits to London as

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chief Bulgarian delegate. He has an onerous task before him in maintaining peace and at the same time satisfying the territorial aspirations of his countrymen. He has hitherto been an ardent supporter of a philo-Russian policy for Bulgaria, and opposed to any coquetting with Austria. He has, however, now to face a growing feeling of discontent with Russia, and should Bulgarian aspirations as regards the partition of the newly occupied territories not be fulfilled his tenure of office is not likely to endure.

I have, &c.

H. O. BAX-IRONSIDE.

[28529] No. 283.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 23.)

(No. 62.)

Sir, *Bucharest, June* 17, 1913.

WITH reference to Sir H. Bax-Ironside's telegram No. 205 of the 11th instant, I learn from the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the first sitting of the Bulgarian and Roumanian commissioners at Silistria is fixed for the 20th instant.

The Roumanian Commissioners (1) for the delimitation of the frontier, (2) for the delimitation of the zone within which Bulgaria is to have no fortifications, and (3) for the fixing of the indemnity to be paid to those Bulgarians who decide to leave Silistria, are respectively as follows:—

1. M. Nenitzesco, formerly Minister of Commerce; General Culcer, commanding the Dobrudja Army Corps; Colonel Cristesco, of the general staff; Colonel Iliesco; and Major Dabija, Roumanian military attaché at Sophia.

2. M. Alexander Lahovary, Roumanian Minister in Paris; General Culcer; General Zetto; Colonel Cristesco; Colonel Iliesco; and Major Dabija.

3. General Mironesco; M. Nestor Cinco, Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies; and M. Paul Greceano, member of the Chamber of Deputies.

I have, &c.

G. BARCLAY.

[28574] No. 284.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 23.)

(No. 544.)

Sir, *Constantinople, June* 18, 1913.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 147 of the 14th May last, I have the honour to forward herewith a memorandum from Sir Adam Block in reply to the memorandum prepared by M. Madjaroff regarding the payment of a war indemnity by Turkey, and the questions arising therefrom.

I have, &c.

GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 284.

Memorandum by Sir A. Block.

IN the memorandum and circular telegram of the Bulgarian Government referred to me by His Majesty's Government in Sir Edward Grey's despatch No. 147 of the 14th May, the Bulgarian Government endeavour to connect the payment of a war indemnity by Turkey with the assignment to such war indemnity of "the surplus revenues of the Ottoman Public Debt Administration."

In the opinion of the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt these questions should be treated separately.

The Bulgarian Government further confuse the surplus of the "ceded revenues," and of the "tithes and other revenues" collected by the Public Debt Administration.

The two categories of revenue are entirely distinct. The former is the inalienable property of the bondholders of Turkey, confirmed by the solemn engagements of the Decree of Muharrem and of the supplementary Decree of 1903, of which latter the Great Powers have taken official act. The latter category embraces revenues collected

by the Debt Administration for the Turkish Government, and in part assigned, under contracts to which the Debt Council is a party, to the service of various loans and railway guarantees.

The position of the bondholders of the Decree of Muharrem, to whom the ceded revenues belong, is as follows:—

In virtue of that Decree (20th December, 1881) the Turkish Government ceded absolutely and irrevocably until the extinction of the foreign debt of Turkey, as then existing, the total product of certain revenues, of which the collection also was ceded to the Debt Council. In 1903 the bondholders and Turkey modified this arrangement, and the former consented to share with the Turkish Government the surplus, if any, of the same revenues over and above a fixed annuity required for the service and ordinary sinking fund of the then existing debt.

This is the origin of what is called "the surplus of the ceded revenues."

If the bondholders of their free will and accord made this concession to the Government of Turkey, it was done in order directly to interest the Government in the collection of the ceded revenues. The Government became "coïntéressé," but this did not in any way modify the original rights of the bondholders to the entire product of the revenues ceded in 1881. Only when the general accounts are made up at the end of the year is it possible to ascertain what surplus, if any, exists, and only when there is a surplus do the bondholders take 25 per cent. for the extraordinary sinking fund, leaving 75 per cent. to the Turkish Government.

The author of the memorandum, as I have stated, confuses the surplus of the ceded revenues with the surplus of the other revenues collected by the Debt Council, and quotes a statement made by M. de La Boulinière at the close of his presidential year.

The figures furnished by M. de La Boulinière were only approximate figures, as, indeed, was stated by him at the time. The accounts of the year were not then made up.

In the memorandum furnished by the Bulgarian Government certain figures are given which are inaccurate and misleading, and the calculations and percentages based on these inaccurate figures, besides being seemingly incorrect, can therefore have no real bearing on the questions at issue.

It is, indeed, somewhat difficult to follow and understand the figures given in the memorandum, but I will endeavour to do so as far as possible.

The figures given by the Bulgarian Government of £T. 371,898 as representing the decrease of the surplus of 1912 compared with that of 1911, is more correctly £T. 977,109 (£T. 3,227,865—£T. 2,250,756), and if I take into consideration that in the receipts of 1912 figures a sum of about £T. 220,000, representing the war taxes, the decrease of the surplus is about £T. 1,197,109, or in round figures close upon £T. 1,200,000.

The difference between the figure given by the Bulgarian Government, namely, £T. 371,898, and the above figure of £T. 1,200,000, is considerable.

Further, the average increase of the revenues for 1909, 1910, and 1911, is 16·44, and not 16·67 as stated.

Again, the 75 per cent. of the customs "surtaxe" of 3 per cent. constitutes 27·42 per cent. of the average surplus of the years 1909, 1910, and 1911, and not 35·57 per cent. as stated.

I venture to give other and more correct figures.

The net receipts of the ceded revenues were in 1325 (1909–10) £T. 3,906,298, in 1326 (1910–11) £T. 4,066,312, and in 1327 (1911–12) £T. 4,126,599, being an average for three years of £T. 4,033,070.

After payment of the fixed annuity of the Unified Bonds and Lottery Bonds (£T. 2,157,375), and of the 25 per cent. of the surplus for extraordinary sinking fund purposes, a surplus for the Government remained in 1325 (1909–10) of £T. 1,311,692, in 1326 (1910–11) of £T. 1,431,703, in 1327 (1911–12) of £T. 1,476,918, being an average of £T. 1,406,771.

This surplus was, however, earmarked (1) for the annuity of the loan of 1904 (£T. 123,750), and (2) for the annuity of the Bagdad Loan, Series II to VI, amounting to £T. 720,000, as well as (3) for the working expenses of the Bagdad Railway, estimated at £T. 150,000.

The Government's share in the customs surtax is not assigned to these annuities, and instead of the Government's share in the surplus being a plus quantity it is a minus

quantity. The average, less customs surtax, for three years is £T. 655,158, whereas the fixed charges amount, as I have also shown, to £T. 993,750.

The Government received from the customs surtax in 1325 (1909–10) £T. 708,261, in 1326 (1910–11) £T. 755,711, in 1327 (1911–12) £T. 790,866, or an average of £T. 751,613.

Coming to the tithes and other revenues collected by the Debt Council, these left a surplus of £T. 980,831 in 1325 (1909–10), £T. 150,560 in 1326 (1910–11), and £T. 1,258,643 in 1327 (1911–12), or an average of £T. 1,130,012.

If the Balkan States do not compensate Turkey for the loss of the Roumelian revenues based on the actual present receipts, the Turkish Government will lose on these revenues at least £T. 300,000 per annum.

The surplus of these revenues which, owing to climatic conditions is susceptible of great variations from year to year, is also earmarked for foreign creditors (see pp. 52–57 of my Annual Report for 1912). These creditors cannot be deprived of their property without their consent. The permanent charges on these revenues amount to £T. 179,020, and the remaining surplus bears a new charge of £T. 500,000 as security for Treasury Bonds issued by the Imperial Ottoman Bank. It can also be called upon to furnish the sums wanted for the working expenses of the Bagdad Railway. Under these circumstances there remains but little for the Turkish Government.

The writer of the memorandum lays stress on the customs surtax. This surtax is one of the revenues ceded to the bondholders by the Decree of Muharrem (see Blue Book, Turkey, No. 2, 1907). If the Government have been allowed to receive their share of the surplus revenue as far as the product of the customs surtax is concerned, before the annual accounts were made up, and if the Government agreed to earmark it for Macedonia, as long as the Financial Commission was in existence there, these are matters which do not concern the bondholders, whose rights to this revenue and to all other increase in the customs duties are incontestable and admitted by the Great Powers. The bondholders cannot be deprived of these rights.

In conclusion, it is clear to anyone who is familiar with Turkish finance during the last thirty years that the words "surplus of revenue" are misleading. The Turkish Government have for years past had a recurring deficit in the budget.

The war, and the effects of the war, will not make things easier. Without fresh sources of revenue it is almost impossible to carry on the Government of the country. The surplus revenues of the debt are just as much required as other revenues. To deprive Turkey of these would be to bring it to the verge of financial ruin.

The 3 per cent. customs surtax does not become a luxury because Macedonia, to which it was assigned, is lost. If Turkey agreed to earmark it for Macedonia at the request of the Great Powers, which desired to have a certain and regular source of revenue under the control of the Debt Council for the requirements of that part of the country, the Government only favoured Macedonia at the expense of other parts of the country. The other provinces of the Empire were starved accordingly, and recourse was had to borrowing to make up for the funds thus deflected and assigned for provinces of the Empire more favoured financially by reason of the action of the Great Powers. This revenue, moreover, will be prejudically affected by the loss of the ceded territories, and, perhaps, by a reduction of imports in other Turkish ports owing to the effects of the war.

I regret that this report has been delayed by reason of my absence from Constantinople on business connected with the debt revenues.

Constantinople, June 17, 1913.

[28596] No. 285.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 23.)

(No. 108.)

Sir, *Sophia, June* 18, 1913.

IN my telegram No. 197 of the 7th instant I had the honour to inform you that M. Gueshof had told me that he had definitely resigned. He considered that his mission was finished at the conclusion of the war, and he had quite decided to resign office and to refuse all offers to continue in power. This resolution he has maintained in spite of the repeated attempts of His Majesty the King, of his own partisans, and, it

is even said, of members of the Opposition, to induce him to retain the Presidency of the Council.

There are several cogent reasons for M. Gueshof's decision which I have had the honour to bring to your notice on previous occasions. He has felt throughout this last most trying year that if Bulgaria was obliged to cede any territory whatever to Roumania he would be unable to justify his own position before a Grand Sobranjé. His personal fortune comes from that country, he speaks Roumanian well, and is considered very well disposed to the Roumanians. Should he have continued in office when the question of the cession of Silistria is discussed, he would have been bitterly attacked, and would have found it very difficult to defend himself. Further, he is now 66 years old, and somewhat troubled with deafness, and his wife is severely ill. Lastly, M. Gueshof repeated to me that he would on no account whatever face a fresh war. He had worked hard to create and maintain the Balkan alliance, and if it had to be dissolved it should not be during his tenure of office.

M. Gueshof's resignation is, I regret to say, a great loss, especially to His Majesty's Legation and personally to myself. He has spent seventeen years in England, and is thoroughly conversant with our national character and language. In addition, his influence has always been employed in the cause of peace.

On the 8th instant I had the honour to telegraph that Dr. Danef would in all probability succeed M. Gueshof, but that the policy of Bulgaria would be to temporise until the 18th instant, when she would be ready not only to act on the defensive, but to take the offensive against Greece and Servia combined.

The forecast has proved correct, as the new Cabinet was not officially formed until the 14th instant, although there was no apparent reason for the delay. Meanwhile military preparations have been pushed on with the utmost haste, and every man capable of bearing arms has been enlisted. It is regrettable to have to state that all those who were imprisoned for outrages and excesses have been released, the "komitajis" have been given a free hand, and Bulgarian Mussulmans, some 90,000 in all, have been asked to serve. This they have agreed to do on condition that they do not have to fight against their co-religionists.

The answer to the Servian note requesting a revision of the treaty was not sent prior to M. Gueshof's resignation, and on the 11th instant the Servian Government handed in a fresh note proposing that Bulgaria and Servia would gradually reduce their effectives to one-quarter of their present strength.

This action was reported to you by the Servian Chargé d'Affaires in London, and I was instructed to propose to the Bulgarian Government that the reduction should be carried out immediately. I acted on these instructions on the 13th instant. I interviewed M. Dobrovitch, the "chef du Cabinet," and impressed on him the necessity of an immediate demobilisation. M. Dobrovitch stated that, in the absence of a Minister, he would not fail to inform the King of your wishes. He added that he thought it would be difficult for Bulgaria to demobilise until Servia had evacuated all the territories in dispute, but that this was only the expression of his personal opinion. He concluded by stating that Dr. Danef would assume office very shortly, and he would give me an answer after the matter had been discussed by the new Cabinet.

To-day M. Danef held his first official reception, and on my asking him what reply he purposed making to you respecting the demobilisation of the Bulgarian army, he begged me to inform you that the Government were only too anxious to demobilise, and that he had already informed the Servian Government to this effect, but he had to make it a *sine quâ non* that a condominium be established in the occupied territories, and that if Servia would agree to this Bulgaria would reduce her present effective forces to one-quarter of their present strength, *pari passu* with Servia.

When I touched on the question of submitting the present difficulties to the arbitration of the Emperor of Russia, his Excellency declared that this had always been and still was the wish of his Government, but that they could only agree to arbitration on the lines of the treaty, as foreseen in article 4. M. Danef concluded by stating that, even if the Prime Ministers of Greece, Servia, and Montenegro went to St. Petersburgh, he could not proceed thither unless he received some positive assurance that the arbitration would be on the lines of the treaty, or unless the Servian Government could find some way to modify their present attitude.

The army was, he declared, determined either to fight at once or to return home, and its attitude tended to make the position more critical.

At this interview I arrived at the conclusion that M. Danef is really anxious for peace if a way can be found out of the present *impasse* compatible with Bulgarian aspirations.

The attitude of Roumania is causing considerable anxiety, as the Bulgarian Government are far from willing to purchase Roumanian neutrality at the price of further territorial losses.

I have, &c.
H. O. BAX-IRONSIDE.

[28577] No. 286.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 547.)
Sir, *Constantinople, June 19, 1913.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 285 of yesterday, the following is the complete list of the new Cabinet:—

Grand Vizier and Minister of Foreign Affairs (*ad interim*), Prince Saïd Halim Pasha, cousin of His Highness the Khedive.

Sheikh-ul-Islam, Mohammed Eshad Effendi, maintained from Mahmoud Shevket's Cabinet.

Minister of War, General Izzet Pasha.

Minister of Marine, General Mahmoud Pasha, maintained from Mahmoud Shevket's Cabinet.

Minister of the Interior, Talaat Bey.

Council of State, Khalil Bey, ex-deputy for Mentesche and ex-President of the Chamber.

Minister of Justice, Ibrahim Bey, maintained from the Cabinet of Mahmoud Shevket Pasha.

Minister of Finance, Rifaat Bey, maintained.

Minister of Public Instruction, Shukri Bey, maintained.

Minister of Evcaf, Hairi Bey, maintained.

Minister of Public Works, Osman Nizami Pasha, chief delegate to the Peace Conference.

Minister of Commerce, Suleiman Bostani Effendi.

Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Oscan Effendi.

The new Cabinet is, in essentials, distinctly Committee of Union and Progress in complexion.

The new Grand Vizier, the cousin of His Highness the Khedive, is an accomplished gentleman who for many years has been a devoted adherent of "Young Turkey," mainly, it is supposed, owing to the exclusion of the Halim Pasha branch from the succession to the Khediviate. He will, of course, be allowed no initiative, and is a puppet in the hands of the Committee. The Minister of War, General Izzet Pasha, late vice-generalissimo of the army at Chatalja, is an Albanian.

It was he who last year negotiated the arrangement with the Imam Yahia of Yemen. In sympathies he can scarcely be recognised as having deep Committee sympathies, and the real power in the army will reside in such Committee officers as Colonel Enver Bey and Colonel Djemal Bey, Military Governor of the capital; Colonel Remzi Bey, President of the Court-Martial, who belongs to the Crypto-Jewish sect of "dunmeh" at Salonica, was commandant of the Committee battalions which played such a prominent part in the movement of the 9th April, 1909, was then made chief aide-de-camp to the present Sultan, and subsequently military attaché at St. Petersburgh.

Rifaat Bey, the Minister of Finance, is an honest but colourless functionary, who is supposed to be keeping the post warm for Djavid Bey, now in Paris.

Suleiman Bostani Effendi, Minister of Commerce, is a Syrian Christian senator who speaks English well, is the author of a translation of the Iliad into Arabic, and is honest and hardworking, but not very business-like. His appointment is meant to conciliate the Christian and Arab elements.

Oscan Effendi is an Armenian who has made his career in the Public Debt and the Ministry of Finance. He has no politics, and is probably the hardest working and most efficient member of the Cabinet.

The dominant members of the new combination are Talaat Bey, Minister of the Interior; Hairi Bey, Minister of Evcaf; and Khalil Bey, President of the Council of State. Of these, Talaat Bey and Hairi Bey are members of the inner circle of the Committee of Union and Progress, which in internal matters has decided to resume

the policy of "thorough" inaugurated after the event of April 1909. It is generally felt that they have decided to govern without an opposition, a course for which the recent assassination of Mahmoud Shevket furnishes an excellent pretext. Their five years' experience has apparently convinced them that this form of constitutionalism is best suited to Turkey.

They have begun by deporting to Sinope, on the Black Sea, some 500 individuals who have been identified with the opposition to the Committee. I have the honour to enclose a list of the principal exiles,* who, as it will be noticed, include prominent officials, journalists, deputies, and ex-officers.

I am informed that, since the *coup d'État* of the 23rd January, some 2,000 to 4,000 people have been removed to the provinces or forced to quit the country as a result of the action of the secret court-martial which has been sitting in the capital, practically without interruption, since the advent of the Committee in April 1909. There would thus seem to be an analogy between the present condition of things in Portugal and Turkey, and it is difficult to feel confident that the present methods will in the coming years bear better fruit for Turkey than during the last four and a-half years. It would probably not be an exaggeration to say that over 90 per cent. of the population, now inarticulate, are against the present Government.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

[28518] No. 287.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 117.)
Sir, *Belgrade, June 19, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from His Majesty's vice-consul at Uskub, on the subject of the calling out of volunteers for military service.

I have, &c.
RALPH PAGET.

Enclosure 1 in No. 287.

Vice-Consul Peckham to Sir R. Paget.

(No. 26.)
Sir, *Uskub, June 6, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Servian authorities are calling out locally "volunteers" for military service. These appear to be mainly young men of from 20 to 25, though I have heard of cases where boys below this age have been called on. The majority are, of course, volunteers in name only; the Moslems seem showing no enthusiasm and the Bulgars naturally rather an aversion. Many of the former are Albanians, and feel that their sympathies are rather with the Bulgarians than with the Servians in this crisis (see my despatch No. 11 of the 18th February).

Local military public opinion is, as far as I can gather, pacific. "We will never declare war on Bulgaria," an officer of my acquaintance remarked to me. (Of course, "We will never give up Kyöprülü or Monastir" is understood.)

At the same time, I fancy that there will be very little enthusiasm for a Bulgarian war among the rank and file. I have already noted (my despatch No. 21 of the 24th March) that the Servian soldier is sick of military service. An anecdote I have just heard illustrates this rather well. Some soldiers here asked an educated man who had a newspaper what the news was. "The plenipotentiaries have signed the peace, Sir Edward Grey has forced them to." The soldiers went off to spread the good news, shouting "Long live Sir Edward Grey!" War against the Turk or the Shyab is one thing, war against a brother Slav is another.

Matters must be, if anything, worse with the Bulgarians, to judge by the fact that deserters from the Bulgarian army are beginning to come in here. They state that starvation has forced them to desert, and here, at any rate, they are getting something to eat, as the Servian authorities are boarding and lodging them. I have endeavoured to find out where they came from, and was told Gevgeli, but am not certain if they

* Not printed

were part of the small Bulgarian garrison there, or if this is the first place where they came in touch with the Servian authority.

Such rumours as come in from Ofché Polyé point to a state of affairs hardly distinguishable from war. A Servian officer who has just come in from there spoke of perpetual Bulgarian "sniping." There appears to have been a conflict at Makri-köy with Bulgarian bands, and over thirty truckloads of disabled soldiers have come in here. The Servians explain that these men are sick; the fact that many of them had bandaged limbs points in another direction.

I have, &c.
W. D. PECKHAM.

Enclosure 2 in No. 287.

Vice-Consul Peckham to Sir R. Paget.

(No. 27.)
Sir, *Uskub, June* 9, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that as a consequence of the enrolment of forced volunteers a great number of natives have been coming to the foreign consulates here to ask them to intervene in their favour. I have invariably met these people with a refusal to move in the matter.

Yesterday some Bulgar women were arrested as they came away from the Italian consulate. The Italian consul learned that the prefect had given orders to the police to arrest persons who communicated with foreign consulates.

My Italian, Austrian, and French colleagues and I have discussed informally the situation thus created, and have decided each to take the next opportunity of pointing out to M. Vuchkovich that such an order is derogatory to the dignity of the consulates, being tantamount to a statement that they are indulging in political intrigue. I believe that my Russian colleague intends to do the same.

It also seems to me to be contrary at least to the spirit of the orders of the Belgrade Government referred to in your telegrams No. 2 of the 21st November and No. 6 of the 26th November, 1912.

I need hardly point out that if this order were executed strictly the results would be grotesque; for instance, my cook, a married man, who lives in a separate house, would be perpetually under arrest.

I have, &c.
W. D. PECKHAM.

[28522] No. 288.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 23.)

(No. 121.)
Sir, *Belgrade, June* 20, 1913.

THERE is but little change to record in the situation here since writing my despatch No. 116 of the 15th instant.

Some few days ago M. Pashitch presented his resignation to the King, but on His Majesty requesting him to retain office he immediately withdrew it. I am inclined to think that this resignation was to some extent a manœuvre on M. Pashitch's part to strengthen his own position in the Skupshtina, where a disposition exists to attack his policy, and partly also intended, in view of the Czar's telegram, as a hint to Russia that there are limits beyond which he (M. Pashitch) cannot go. In all probability M. de Hartwig therefore took a part in persuading him to reconsider his decision. It is certain that M. Pashitch's definite resignation at the present moment would be a calamity, as there is no other politician in Servia at the present moment fitted to take his place, or who possesses the same control of the political parties and the same influence in the country. Any other Minister but M. Pashitch would, under existing circumstances, have been carried off his feet by the extremists of the military party.

The replies of the Bulgarian Government to the Servian notes respectively suggesting a reduction of the effectives to a quarter of their present number and demanding a revision of the treaty have now been received. The former makes joint occupation of the disputed territories a condition prior to the reduction of the forces, and the latter, I understand, refutes point by point, much on the lines supplied to me by M. Toshef (see my despatch No. 100, Confidential, of the 16th ultimo), the statements urged by

the Servians, and which were practically exposed in M. Pashitch's recent speech to the Skupshtina. Naturally, these replies do not by any means tend to ease the situation, and there are symptoms that the attitude of submission to the will of Russia, which was noticeable immediately after receipt by King Peter of the Czar's telegram, is less marked than at first. M. Pashitch told me yesterday that, although it had in the first instance been his intention to go to St. Petersburgh in compliance with the summons of the Russian Government, it now seemed to him useless unless Bulgaria abandoned her contention that the arbitration must be only on the lines laid down in the treaty.

The two arguments upon which Servians harp, and which are repeated *ad nauseam* by the press, are that Bulgaria broke the treaty, and therefore the treaty must be put aside; and secondly, that it is a vital question for Servia to have a conterminous frontier with Greece, so that she may have an assured exit for her commerce to Salonica. It never occurs to them that before the treaty is set aside it should first be satisfactorily proved that Bulgaria has violated it, and that, as regards the frontier, the Servian Government were themselves responsible for laying it down in conjunction with Bulgaria before the war. It is, moreover, somewhat remarkable that during last autumn, when they were warned off the Adriatic littoral, the Servians would not listen to any suggestion for an exit for their commerce on the Ægean, and maintained that the only natural outlet was on the Adriatic. Now the Adriatic is never mentioned, but, on the other hand, an outlet on the Ægean has become vital.

From the point of view that they lost a certain number of troops in occupying the country, that they have now been some time in occupation, and that undoubtedly, if the treaty is enforced, Servian commerce towards the Ægean will be dependent on Bulgarian good-will, the Servians may in the present circumstances command a certain amount of sympathy, but when considered in a purely matter of fact and judicial light, and from the point of view of previous arrangements, the Servian case cannot but appear exceedingly weak.

I have, &c.
RALPH PAGET.

[28605] No. 289.

Mr. Carnegie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 23.)

(No. 333.)
Sir, *Paris, June* 22, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a despatch reporting a conversation which I had, as delegate on the Balkan Financial Commission, with M. de Margerie, the president of that Commission, in regard to the possibility of a compromise as a solution of the indemnity question.

I have, &c.
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

Enclosure in No. 289.

Mr. Carnegie to Sir Edward Grey.

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Paris, June* 22, 1913.

I SAW the president of the Financial Commission last night, and asked him how he thought matters were progressing. M. de Margerie replied that he perceived a general spirit of moderation which was most encouraging. Many of the delegates had expressed the intention of making lengthy speeches or declarations, but he had succeeded hitherto in persuading them not to do so. He wished to restrict discussions for the present to facts and figures, and to avoid all mention of politics, and especially of the word "indemnity." He had urged on all sides that the expression should not be used. If it were, he remarked, he would, in his capacity of president, refuse to accept it. He thought that the Russians had considerably modified their views on the indemnity question since you had spoken so plainly on the subject. He was glad to observe that your language had exercised a most salutary effect on both the Russians and the allies. M. Raffalovich had gone to London to consult with Count Benckendorff, and M. de Margerie hoped that he would return in a more reasonable frame of mind, for the attitude hitherto adopted by the Russians in regard to the pretensions of the

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Balkan States put the French Government in a most embarrassing position, as they were strongly opposed to the demand for an indemnity from Turkey.

I observed that presumably some compromise would have to be found for the sake of appearances. M. de Margerie thought that something might be done in regard to the share of the Turkish Debt to be taken over by the allies. The Germans would certainly ask that the Balkan States should pay more than their proper share, while the Russians, who had no bondholders, would endeavour to reduce the sum to below what was equitable. There would therefore be an opportunity, without inflicting any injury on the bondholders, for bargaining and for making an apparent concession in favour of the Balkan States which might be represented as the equivalent of an indemnity. He only mentioned this, however, as a possible solution, as the question was in fact not yet ripe for decision.

M. de Margerie went on to say that the allies were beginning to realise that Russia often promised more than she could fulfil, and that in consequence they were inclined to take a more independent line. M. Danef's refusal to go to St. Petersburgh with the other Balkan Ministers had been explained to him by one of the Bulgarian delegates in this light. It seemed likely, therefore, that the Balkan delegates would be more amenable than they had hitherto appeared to be.

I had a few minutes' conversation with M. Pichon last night, who told me that he had received very unsatisfactory news from the Balkans. His Excellency observed that, if war broke out, it would be difficult for the work of the Commission to continue.

I have, &c.
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

[28814] No. 290.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 293.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 23, 1913.*

BULGARIA, with a view to resuming diplomatic relations, has offered to send M. Framagaghia as Minister.

Grand Vizier tells me that it is very difficult for Turkey to resume diplomatic relations with Bulgaria as long as the latter occupies her territory, and that, as international commission for fixing line will probably be slow in its work, a temporary neutral zone might be established.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[28809] No. 291.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 222.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 23, 1913.*

IN confirmation of Count de Salis's telegram No. 100 of 20th June, I gather from good sources that Montenegrin Government have decided to throw in their lot with Greece and Servia in the event of war.

Servians are evacuating the sanjak, which will be occupied by Montenegrins, who will also guard Albanian north-west frontier.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[28806] No. 292.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 223.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 23, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 218 of 21st June.

I hear on good authority that headquarters staff have decided to attack the Greek army in the course of this week. The troops have been told that war will be commenced not later 26th June.

Proclamation of war against Greece and Servia has been printed, and is ready for distribution.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[23810] No. 293.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 224.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 23, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 123 of 21st June.

I have again seen Prime Minister. While thanking you for the interest which you display, he adheres to the standpoint reported in my telegram No. 220 of 21st June.

He added, however, that he believes Russia has not said her last word at Belgrade, or, perhaps, even at Sophia.

If he receives practical assurances from the Russian Government that there will be no arbitration outside the treaty he will go to St. Petersburgh, otherwise he will not.

He is indifferent as to whether these assurances are given to him privately or officially.

His Excellency informs me that he has just heard that Servian Prime Minister has resigned, and he seems inclined to believe that the Servian Government would yield at the last moment.

(Confidential.)

I feel now that present attitude of Bulgaria will be difficult to modify.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[28816] No. 294.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 152.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 23, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of 22nd June.

M. Pashitch has resigned. I hear that resignation is due to differences in Cabinet, Minister of Finance and Minister of War pressing for a more vigorous policy, whilst the Prime Minister is inclined to submit to Russian pressure and accept arbitration unconditionally. The King will probably summon chiefs of political parties in order to sense the feeling in the country. If the Minister of Finance is entrusted with formation of a Cabinet Servian attitude towards Bulgaria is likely to become aggressive.

Russian Minister is said to have made great efforts to induce the Prime Minister to withdraw resignation, but so far without success.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[28813] No. 295.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 23, 1913.*

FOLLOWING is repetition of telegram No. 25 of to-day from Monastir:—

"I am informed that Servian and Greek Governments have come to a definite understanding as to the general outlines of a frontier starting from point south of Ghevgheli and passing north of Florina to Lake Presba, and that a declaration of annexation based on this understanding would be the probable Servian answer to a Bulgarian demand for evacuation."

It seems probable that arrangement regarding a frontier was come to some time ago.

With regard to declaration of annexation, I understand it was at one time the intention of the Servian military authorities to make such a declaration, but the intention was abandoned owing to representations made by the Russian Government at Belgrade.

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[28817] No. 296.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Cettinjé, June 23, 1913.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs tells me that complaints have been made to you by Austria that Montenegrins are reoccupying territory assigned to Albania. He begged me to assure you that the only troops they had in territory in question were 200 men at Tarabosh, who were encamped there with sanction of vice-admiral, and 60 men at San Giovanni di Medua to guard depôt of military stores, which were being transported to Montenegro.

[28945] No. 297.

Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir C. Burney.—(Communicated by Admiralty June 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Admiralty, June 23, 1913.*

AUSTRIAN Government complains that Montenegrins still occupy customs at San Giovanni di Medua, and states the Montenegrin detachment of 30 men left there to remove stores left behind by Servian troops has been increased to 130 men.

Please investigate this and report. Austrian Government wishes stores to be removed from San Giovanni di Medua with all possible despatch, and if Montenegrins are occupying customs there they should now retire.

[28953] No. 298.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir R. Paget.**

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 23, 1913.*

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN Government desire that the communication agreed upon at the meeting of Ambassadors on 22nd March last in regard to protection of minorities should be repeated to Servian and Montenegrin Governments textually as it was adopted at that meeting. At meeting to-day the following resolution was passed :—

"En notifiant aux Gouvernements serbe et monténégrin la déclaration proposée à la réunion, le 22 mars dernier, la réunion pense que cette déclaration doit être interprétée dans ce sens que dans les territoires acquis par la Serbie et le Monténégro à la suite de la guerre les mesures à prendre par les Gouvernements de Belgrade et de Cettigné devront avoir pour objet de garantir la liberté des cultes et de l'enseignement, la protection des églises, monastères, mosquées, écoles et établissements religieux de toute nature ainsi que des droits des propriétaires contre des actes résultant de la guerre et de nature à les léser."

When all your colleagues are authorised, you may act accordingly.

(Repeated to Berlin, No. 222 ; Constantinople, No. 281 ; Paris, No. 248 ; Rome, No. 192 ; St. Petersburgh, No. 473 ; and Vienna, No. 190, for information.)

[28191] No. 299.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Elliot.

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 23, 1913.*

TURKISH Ambassador asked on 19th June for our good offices at Athens to ensure that Greek fleet should not interfere with ships transporting Turkish army, which has already started from Yemen on its way to the Dardanelles.

Ambassador said that Greek Government had on a previous occasion undertaken not to interfere with Turkish transports.

Matter was mentioned to Greek Minister, who promised to telegraph to Greek Government, but said he was sure that transports would not be interfered with.

* Also to Count de Salis (No. 70).

M. Skouloudis, however, read to day telegram from Athens saying that Greek Government were willing to permit transport of Turkish troops provided Turkish Government would give similar proof of good-will towards Greece.

M. Skouloudis explained that Greek Government wished to return to *status quo ante bellum* in their relations with Turkey, and that acquiescence in this was the proof of good-will which they required from Turkish Government.

You should point out to Greek Government that this appears to be retrograde step on their part, and say that we understand that Turkey offered to agree to restoration of *status quo ante bellum*, but that Greek delegates insisted on demanding *status quo ante* 1897, which could not be conceded. You should therefore express hope that transports will not be interfered with.

(Repeated to Constantinople, No. 282.)

[26833] No. 300.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.**

(No. 91.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 23, 1913.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of correspondence relative to the possible establishment of a monopoly in export tobacco by the Greek and Bulgarian Governments in the territory which they have acquired from Turkey.†

You should enquire the intentions of the Bulgarian Government with regard to this question, and express the hope that no step will be taken which could injure the important British interests which already exist in these territories in connection with the tobacco industry.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[26833] No. 301.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Carnegie.

(No. 386.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 23, 1913.*

I HAVE received Sir F. Bertie's despatch No. 304 of the 11th instant relative to the possible establishment of a monopoly in export tobacco by the Greek and Bulgarian Governments in the territory which they have acquired from Turkey.

You should thank the French Minister for Foreign Affairs for the particulars which he has been good enough to furnish to His Majesty's Government as to the steps taken by the French Government with regard to this question, and their result, and should inform him that I have instructed His Majesty's Ministers at Athens and Sophia to enquire the intentions of the Greek and Bulgarian Governments with regard to this question, and express the hope that no step will be taken which could injure the important British interests which already exist in these territories in connection with the tobacco industry.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[29195] No. 302.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.‡

(No. 128.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 23, 1913.*

AT the *réunion* of Ambassadors to-day the Austrian and Russian Ambassadors said that they expected to agree in a day or two upon a formula giving power to a belligerent to prevent the import of munitions of war through an Albanian port.

I said that we would proceed with the confirmation of the declaration to Servia about an international railway to the Adriatic as soon as Austria and Russia had come to an agreement on this outstanding point.

* Also to Sir F. Elliot (No. 65).
† Nos. 13, 20, and 138 ; and Part VIII, No. 312.
‡ Also to Mr. Carnegie (No. 395), Sir E. Goschen (No. 202), Sir R. Rodd (No. 161), and Sir G. Buchanan (No. 240).

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I stated that I thought that the declaration to Servia about this railway access to the Adriatic should be confirmed in its original form, and that the same consideration applied to the declaration about the protection of minorities in the parts of Albania annexed by Servia and Montenegro. Austria demanded that Russia should agree that this declaration should be made in its original form. Russia, I thought, desired that, if she did this, there should be some definition of what was meant by "protection."

Finally the following resolution was agreed to :—

"En notifiant aux Gouvernements serbe et monténégrin la déclaration proposée à la réunion, le 22 mars dernier, la réunion pense que cette déclaration doit être interprétée dans ce sens que dans les territoires acquis par la Serbie et le Monténégro à la suite de la guerre les mesures à prendre par les Gouvernements de Belgrade et de Cettigné devront avoir pour objet de garantir la liberté des cultes et de l'enseignement, la protection des églises, monastères, mosquées, écoles et établissements religieux de toute nature, ainsi que des droits des propriétaires contre des actes résultant de la guerre et de nature à les léser."

The Austrian Ambassador complained that the Montenegrins had increased their detachment of 30 men at San Giovanni di Medua to 130, and had occupied the custom-house.

I said that it was clearly improper for them to seize the customs, and we would telegraph to Admiral Burney to find out the facts.

The Austrian Ambassador also complained of what the Servians were doing in the plain of Luma, and asked that representations should be made to them.

I said that, if we made representations to Servia about anything, she would probably reply with a question as to when the declaration about access to the Adriatic was to be confirmed, as promised.

The Austrian Ambassador asked if I meant that a representation to Servia about this should not be made till we confirmed the declaration about access to the Adriatic, which should be made simultaneously.

I replied that I thought that might be done.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[29193] No. 303.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.

(No. 129.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 23, 1913.

THE Austrian Ambassador informed me to-day that he had reported to his Government, not as a proposal, but as a suggestion for an agreement, my idea of an international commission, as put before him on the 20th instant. He had repeated to his Government the observation that he had made to me to the effect that he did not think the suggestion was one that he thought his Government could accept, and he had received a reply saying that they approved of what he had said.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[29194] No. 304.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Goschen.**

(No. 201.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 23, 1913.

AFTER the *réunion* of Ambassadors had broken up to-day, I had some informal conversation with the German, Austrian, and Italian Ambassadors on the prospect of war between the Balkan allies.

The German Ambassador had stated to me in a conversation last week that, if war broke out, it could not undo the decisions already come to about the Albanian frontier. I had assented to this at the time, and I stated it again in conversation with the three Ambassadors to-day.

* Also to Sir F. Cartwright (No. 130), and Sir R. Rodd (No. 162).

The Italian Ambassador referred to intervention by all the Powers to stop the war, as contemplated in the press, saying that it was the only means of avoiding a conflict.

I said that, according to my information, the Bulgarian Prime Minister had stated that the question in dispute between Servia and Bulgaria was regulated by a treaty that provided for the arbitration of Russia, and that therefore the question was not one for the Great Powers. Unless, therefore, the latter were prepared to intervene in a very forcible manner, their intervention would not be accepted.

The Italian Ambassador evidently did not contemplate intervention of such a character.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[26833] No. 305.

Foreign Office to London Chamber of Commerce.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 23, 1913.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 2nd instant, relative to the possible establishment of a monopoly in export tobacco by the Greek and Bulgarian Governments in the territory which they have acquired from Turkey, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to inform you that he has instructed His Majesty's Ministers at Athens and Sophia to enquire the intentions of the Greek and Bulgarian Governments with regard to this question, and express the hope that no step will be taken which could injure the important British interests which already exist in these territories in connection with the tobacco industry.

I am, &c.
LOUIS MALLET.

[29173] No. 306.

Minute by the Earl of Onslow.

Sir A. Nicolson,

M. SKOULOUDIS came to see me this afternoon, and read me a telegram from his Government, saying that they would be prepared to permit the transport of Turkish troops from the Yemen to the Dardanelles, as a proof of their goodwill towards Turkey, provided that Turkey was prepared to give similar proof of goodwill towards Greece. M. Skouloudis, after reading the telegram, proceeded to explain that the Hellenic Government wished to return to the *status quo ante bellum* as regards the relations between the two; this was the proof of goodwill they wished to obtain from Turkey.

M. Skouloudis said that, in the opinion of the Hellenic Government, after the conclusion of peace there was no reason why former conventions and agreements should not be observed.

Foreign Office, June 23, 1913. O.

[28912] No. 307.

Vice-Consul Greig to Sir G. Lowther.—(Received at Foreign Office June 24.)

(No. 36. Confidential.)

Sir, *Monastir, June* 14, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report on current events in this district as follows:—

Albanian matters.

There have been further signs of the activity of Servian propaganda in Albania, in connection with which Fehim Bey Zavalani is about to undertake another journey, passing through Dibra, the Mat region, Kroia, Tirana, Durazzo, and Elbassan.

M. Balutchitch, whose previous movements were reported in my despatch No. 33 of the 30th May, has again been here after spending a few days in Bucharest. The

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purpose of his visit to this town was to confer with Fehim Bey. He left on the 12th instant for Salonica, and his destination is believed to be Durazzo, and perhaps Berat.

Amongst the objects of these journeys—apart from the general purpose of promoting a Serbo-Albanian *Entente* and incidentally combating Austrian, Italian, and Bulgarian intrigues—are, I believe, the following:—

1. To reconcile Essad Pasha with the authorities at Valona (and perhaps to obtain his inclusion in the Cabinet as Minister of War, in which case it will be interesting to see what employment is reserved for Mehmed Pasha Kalkandelen).

2. To restrain the growing rivalry between the authorities at Valona, Elbassan, Pekinj, and Berat on the one hand, and Tirana, Kavaja, and Durazzo on the other.

Another aim is attributed to them by my Austrian colleague, namely, to obtain support for the candidature of a member of the Servian Royal family as Prince or Governor of Albania.

From the representative in Monastir of the Servian Ministry of Foreign Affairs I learn that, if such a candidature is put forward, it would probably be in the person of Prince George.

It is the intention of the Serbs to appoint consuls as soon as possible in the Albanian centres, to enhance the importance of Elbassan, and to remove from their path by purchase or assassination any uncompromising foreign agents. Ismail Kemal and Dervish Khima have been indicated to me as specially marked out for Servian vengeance.

Monastir, if in Servian hands, will be a most natural centre for carrying on much of this propaganda, and the possession of the great marketing centres of Djakova, Prizrend, Kalkandelen, and Dibra will subject the population and landowners of half Northern Albania, including valuable agricultural regions, to Servian good-will as completely as Hellenic ownership of Gorcha would place extensive Albanian districts in the south at the mercy of Greece.

There is something peculiarly Albanian in the position of Fehim Bey Zavalani, who ranks among the leading Nationalists, suffered imprisonment by the Turks for upholding with considerable courage and tenacity the very cause whose secrets he was almost certainly paid all the time to betray to Austria, and has now become an instrument to Servian ends. In his own words he is at present "on good terms with the Serbs, and also with the Bulgars, Austrians, Italians, and Greeks, and has really nothing at heart except the independence of his country."

On the 12th instant he called at this vice-consulate and asked me to inform His Majesty's Government that the Albanians of Macedonia desire, through him, to express their wish for British protection.

Whilst undertaking to communicate his statement to my superintending authorities, I held out no hope of a possibility of its being considered.

The following information has been received as to the distribution of the Albanian gendarmerie:—

	Men.
At Elbassan, where Akif Pasha is mutessarif	250
„ Berat, where Aziz Pasha Virion is mutessarif	100
„ Durazzo, where Hamid Bey Toptan is mutessarif	200
„ Kavaja, where Shahsivar Bey is kaïmakam	100
„ Pekinj, where Demir Pasha is kaïmakam	100
„ Shaiak, where 'Umr Bey is kaïmakam	100
„ Kroia, where 'Umr Agha is kaïmakam	100
„ Tirana, where Refik Bey Toptan is kaïmakam	100

The Prefect of Monastir informs me that several Christian families from the villages of Hosheshté, Nitsa, and Vefché, in the Mokra district, which is just outside the Servian limit of occupation west of Lake Ochrida, having been robbed or threatened by bands of Moslem brigands, have taken refuge at Ochrida and applied to him for Servian protection.

The position of isolated Christian communities in Albania is undeniably precarious as long as no stable administration exists, but the present incidents, which are a source of obvious satisfaction to the Servian authorities, are not, in my opinion, of much importance, especially as there has been no loss of life so far as is known.

It is also reported that a body of gendarmes sent from Elbassan to arrest a Moslem brigand, of Grabova, in the Vrchan region (half-way between Elbassan and Gorcha) has met with a reverse, losing an officer and two men.

The Bulgars and Moslems.

The hostility of the Bulgarian element continues to be of a passive order, but it is developing on significant lines in spite of repressive measures. Bands are reported to be forming in Ochrida and Perlepé districts, and several ex-comitajis of this town are believed to have taken to the hills.

The Serbs are retaliating by the formation of a body of unmounted gendarmes, recruited locally, and described as "Frontier Gendarmerie," consisting mainly of Moslems. The number of men aimed at is 4,000, to be formed into four battalions.

It is understood that Servian officers will be attached to them, and that use will be made of available sergeants and corporals formerly in the Ottoman gendarmerie.

The rate of pay, exclusive of subsistence allowance, will be as follows:—

	Fr.
Privates	20 a-month.
Corporals	28 „
Officers	[?]

Up to the present about 1,500 men are believed to have been enrolled, mainly from Okrida, Struga, and Ressna.

Although chiefly of a Moslem character, the force includes a few Bulgars. But this extraordinary ill-timed attempt to enrol Exarchists has met with little success, and is a further source of friction. Two villages in the Perlepé region—Coniari and Kadinoselo—went so far as to inform the authorities that nothing would induce them to provide volunteers for service against their brothers in the Bulgarian army. Consequently both places have been visited with wholesale arrests.

There is reason to believe that even in the Moslem villages the call for gendarmerie recruits has not everywhere met with a very willing response. A deputation of Moslems from Kanatlartsi, a hamlet near Perlepé, has appeared at this vice-consulate to complain that one-fourth of their men have been "forcibly" enrolled.

Searches for arms and seditious correspondence are being carried out in Bulgarian houses throughout the district as energetically as ever. At Ochrida, one Yaki Tchaoulef, father of the Voivode Petrush Tchaoulef, has been arrested owing to the discovery in his house of four live bombs and other weapons. The bombs, however, although in good condition, are said not to be of very recent manufacture.

The Bulgarian Archbishop of Monastir tells me that the wholesale arrest and deportation of Exarchists in the Greek districts continues. From other sources I learn that bands are forming in the Castoria district.

A certain coldness has recently been noticed between the Austrian consulate and the Bulgarian Archbishop. It is ascribed to the refusal of the latter to push Exarchist propaganda to the lengths advocated by the former.

Austrian endeavours, having failed to associate the Moslems with the Bulgarian cause, are now directed towards fostering a desire amongst the local population for autonomy. Considerable success has been achieved amongst the Moslems in that direction.

Almost any Moslem of Monastir, if asked what government he desires, will reply: "Autonomy, and, failing that, the Serbs."

Servia, Turkey, and Roumania.

There have been some local reflections of the negotiations of the Servian Government with Roumania and Turkey.

M. Kirkovitch, a former inspector of schools at Monastir, has returned to this town after visiting Bucharest and Constantinople, where he has been employed on a a special mission.

At Constantinople his dealings seem to have been mainly with Eyyoub Sabri Bey, Secretary-General of the Committee of Union and Progress. The exact nature of the negotiations has not been disclosed, but there is apparent satisfaction at their result in official circles.

Somewhat in confirmation of this, my Roumanian colleague, whose relations with the Servian authorities has recently undergone a most pronounced improvement, tells me that his Government, whilst maintaining good relations with Bulgaria, is bent on a closer understanding with Servia and the Triple *Entente*, and that it recognises the danger of a too Austrophil policy, which may end by leaving it at the mercy of its southern neighbour or of a group of Slav States.

Various Items of Information.

(a.) *The Birthday of His Majesty the King.*

The reception held at this vice-consulate on the 3rd instant was attended, amongst others, by the Consular Corps, the principal Servian officials, the Orthodox and Exarchist Archbishops, the Mufti, the Hodjas of the chief Mosques, the Sheikh of the Rifai "Tekyé," and by representatives of the most important Moslem families. Delegations from the Moslem villages of Ramna, Lera, Dolentsi, and Kadjan, where relief has recently been distributed, were also present.

(b.) *Military Information.*

No further information has been obtainable as to the movements of the troops of the 1st Morava Division, which recently left Monastir for Kuprulu, except that the 2nd regiment and the 16th regiment are east of the Vardar.

It is believed that a IIIrd Ban regiment will soon arrive here.

(c.) *Administrative Measures.*

There has been a very necessary all-round dismissal of communal officials, mainly Bulgars, in the Struga, Ochrida, Resna, and Gijavat districts, where they were preying outrageously on the Moslems. They have been replaced mainly by Moslem Albanians and some Serbs.

I have, &c.
C. A. GREIG.

[28846] No. 308.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 24.)

(No. 132. Confidential.)

Sir, *Athens, June* 17, 1913.

THE march of events since the signature of peace between Turkey and the allies on the 30th May has been so discouraging that M. Venizelos, who is not easily depressed, has spoken to my Russian colleague of throwing up his task in view of the hopelessness of it. Naturally, M. Demidof urged upon him in the strongest manner that it would be a desertion of his country, whose credit in the world at this moment depended principally upon his personality, and he did not pursue the subject further. In conversation with me he has not gone so far, but his weariness and anxiety are obvious.

He feels that the forebodings have been to some extent justified of those who, like M. Coromilas, were opposed to yielding to the pressure of Europe and signing peace without a guarantee that Turkey would conclude the supplementary conventions that are of so much importance to the allies. Not only is there no sign of an accommodating disposition on the part of Turkey in this matter, but she has not even consented to a return to the *status quo ante bellum*. Greece has parted with the means of pressure which she possessed in the exercise of belligerent rights, for, although she has not officially renounced it, and although the treaty has not been ratified, the resumption of hostilities against Turkey is hardly conceivable.

M. Venizelos feels, moreover, that the signature of peace with Turkey has added immensely to his difficulties and responsibilities in face of Bulgaria. It has released the Bulgarian troops in Thrace from the duty of watching the Turkish forces, and has enabled them to be concentrated against the Greeks and Servians. In his desire to avoid a rupture M. Venizelos took no steps, beyond verbal remonstrances, to prevent this concentration, and if, in spite of all, war should ensue, he feels that he and the King will be open to the reproach of having let slip a precious military opportunity.

Public opinion is very bitter against the Bulgarians, and finds expression in the press, notwithstanding the censorship. What excited the greatest indignation was their firing on the 25th May from Cavalla on the "Averoff," the ship to which was principally due the retention of the command of the sea and the development of the Bulgarian military movements without molestation from the Turks. Almost equal resentment is now being expressed at the treatment alleged to be applied to twenty or thirty Greek soldiers taken prisoners by the Bulgarians in the fighting on Mount

Pangaion, who are said to be paraded round the neighbouring villages and made to work under the lash. Two hundred Bulgarians captured by the Greeks during the same fighting were immediately released. M. Rhallys writes to this morning's papers in characteristically intemperate language to declare that the Government and the Crown will be disgraced unless General Nessapjief and the Bulgarians in Salonica are immediately made prisoners. War with Bulgaria is recognised as inevitable unless the Bulgarians abate their excessive pretensions; there is no enthusiasm for it, for the country is tired of fighting, but, so far as I can judge, there is no apprehension as to the result, assuming the assistance of Servia.

A morning paper publishes information, purporting to come from Monastir, to the effect that two conventions have been signed between Greece and Servia, the one military and the other political. The military convention relates to the contingency of an attack by Bulgaria upon either of the allies, and apparently Servia undertakes to support Greece in obtaining possession of the districts of Drama, Serres, and Cavalla. The political treaty regulates the question of Servian trade passing through Salonica. There is nothing in this statement inconsistent with what I have gathered from M. Venizelos as to the agreement between the two countries which is now admitted to exist. I should suppose, however, that it also includes the broad bases of a frontier between them, as M. Venizelos has told me that there were no questions at issue between Greece and Servia.

My Russian colleague tells me that M. Gueshof promised, before he left office, that whoever succeeded him would agree to the meeting of the four Premiers at St. Petersburgh, but until a formal acceptance of the invitation is sent from Sophia the danger of a rupture remains. The German Minister told me to-day that the reason of the departure of the King for Salonica was that it was understood that the Bulgarians intended to attack both the Greeks and the Servians to-morrow, without a previous declaration of war; my colleague, however, supposed that the intention would not be carried into effect, in view of the invitation to St. Petersburgh. The King, with whom I had a few moments' conversation after the christening of Princess Catherine on the 14th instant, was very anxious, and very grateful for the efforts of the Governments of England, Germany, and Russia to maintain peace.

Hearing that my Russian colleague was going to see M. Venizelos the day before yesterday, I suggested to him to hint to his Excellency that it would be advisable, if he went to St. Petersburgh, that the King should return to Athens, and remain here as a check upon the chauvinistic tendencies of M. Coromilas, who acts as President of the Council during the Prime Minister's absence. M. Demidof readily fell in with my suggestion, and M. Venizelos gave him the assurance that the King would be at Athens while he was away.

I have the honour to enclose a translation of a communiqué which was published in the Athens press on the 4th instant correcting various statements made from Bulgarian sources.* It would, however, be unprofitable to reproduce the many recriminations and allegations put forward on both sides. For instance, while some of the Greek papers have asserted that the Bulgarians never had more than 240,000 men in the field, a communiqué of the Bulgarian Legation at Vienna is reported to estimate the different forces as follows:—

635,000 Bulgarians against 758,000 Turks; 230,000 Servians against 90,000 Turks; 77,000 Greeks against 32,000 Turks; and 40,000 Montenegrins against a number of Turks not stated.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

[28847] No. 309.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 24.)

(No. 133. Confidential.)

Sir, *Athens, June* 17, 1913.

M. COROMILAS came to me the day before yesterday to say that he feared you were getting very tired of the questions before the meeting of Ambassadors; that he recognised the invaluable efforts you were making on behalf of Greece; and that, in

* Not printed.

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order to assist you to bring them to a successful conclusion, he was instructing M. Skouloudis to make to you the following communication, which was for the present intended for your own information only, and not for that of the Ambassadors. In case there should be any delay in your receiving it from M. Skouloudis, he begged me also to telegraph it.

If, he said, you are quite convinced that the decision of Italy not to allow Greece to retain possession of the coast of Epirus north of Cape Stilos is unalterable, the Greek Government are prepared to consent that the frontier should start from that point or from Ftelia, which is close by, and running due north from there until it reached the line of Greek occupation, should leave a strip of coast to Albania, but should include in Greek territory Argyrocastro and the valley of the Drin, Premeti, and Korytsa. He declared that the sacrifice of Khimara and other purely Greek districts, as well as of Santi Quaranta, the natural commercial outlet of Yannina, was a great sacrifice, of which he hoped due account would be taken in considering the question of the islands. He also declared that Greece was the victim of her own moderation. If she had occupied Avlona and Berat Italy would have been quite satisfied with the evacuation of those places, but, having stopped at the line she claimed, she was not to be allowed to keep it.

I had the honour to receive this evening, and shall communicate to M. Coromilas to-morrow morning, your telegram No. 88, acquainting me with your reply to M. Skouloudis upon this subject.

In a later conversation on the same day M. Coromilas said he had been much disturbed by a telegram from a Greek representative to the effect that it was reported that you were inclined to leave Greece to settle the Albanian frontier question for herself with Italy and Austria. Although, if true, this implied that you thought it would be safe to do so, and that those two Powers would not use force to dislodge Greece from the territories she occupied, yet he thought that it would be a dangerous game to play, and he implored you not to leave Greece to face them alone.

I gather that he is more afraid of obstinacy on the part of Austria than on that of Italy, especially with regard to Korytsa. He has more than once spoken to me of the interest taken by Austria in the 1,200 Koutso-Vlachs of the Pindus, whose desire not to be incorporated in Greece she wishes to see respected, notwithstanding what the 120,000 other inhabitants of the same district may have to say.

I learn from my Russian colleague that the Greek Government have offered the Roumanian Government to grant to these Koutso-Vlachs all the privileges secured by the Protocol of St. Petersburgh to the Koutso-Vlachs who are to be incorporated in Bulgaria, in respect of schools and churches, and the right of the Roumanian Government to subsidise them. No reply having been received from Bucharest, my colleague raises the question whether there is not a design to create another autonomous province capable of separate existence as another hotbed of future trouble.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

[28920] No. 310.

Tewfik Pasha to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 24.)

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à Sir E. Grey, et a l'honneur de porter à la haute connaissance de son Excellence que la population musulmane des districts de Djumaï-Bala, Semenli, Krovinok, Tcharova et Istova continue à être l'objet de persécutions et de mauvais traitements de la part des autorités bulgares, qui refusent de faire quartier aux musulmans qui n'acceptent pas la conversion forcée au christianisme. D'autre part, il résulte aussi des rapports journaliers et circonstanciés qui parviennent au Cheik-ul-Islamat à Constantinople que l'élément musulman en Macédoine et dans les territoires occupés par la Bulgarie continue, comme depuis le début de la guerre, à être opprimé et qu'il ne peut compter ni sur la protection des autorités ni sur la jouissance de sa liberté de conscience.

Devant l'intérêt humanitaire qu'il y a à faire cesser cet état de choses déplorable et susceptible en se prolongeant de créer un sentiment de malaise et de réprobation dans tout le monde islamique, Tevfik Pacha, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, s'empresse de faire appel aux bons offices et à la haute influence de son Excellence pour qu'elle

veuille bien agir auprès du Gouvernement de Sophia afin de faire cesser ces persécutions systématiques et à l'inviter au respect de la liberté de conscience et du droit de vivre des musulmans habitant la Bulgarie.

Ambassade Impériale ottomane, Londres,
le 23 juin, 1913.

[28918] No. 311.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 24.)

Sir, *Admiralty, June 23*, 1913.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a report from Vice-Admiral Cecil Burney, K.C.B., dated the 16th instant, relative to affairs in Albania.

Copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Burney of the 21st June, referring to paragraph 6 of this report, is also enclosed.

I am, &c.
O. MURRAY.

Enclosure 1 in No. 311.

Vice-Admiral Burney to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *June 21*, 1913.

PROPOSE to appoint Lieutenant Green to command of gendarmerie (*vide* paragraph 6 of my letter of the 16th June, which should reach Admiralty to-day). If this is approved, submit I may be informed at once.

Enclosure 2 in No. 311.

Vice-Admiral Burney to Admiralty.

Sir, *Scutari, Albania, June 16*, 1913.

IN continuation of my letter of the 11th June, 1913, be pleased to lay before their Lordships the following report:—

2. The town having now been a month in occupation by the International Commission, it is possible to give a brief account of the financial position as it now stands, together with a rough forecast of what may be expected as far as revenues and expenses are concerned. Mention is also made later of a few of the more important projects which are *en train*.

3. The revenues and expenses, dating from the 17th May, are as follows:—

REVENUES.

	£ T.	Prs.
Customs house—		
May 17 to end of May	276	88·30
June 1 to June 14	1,924	23·05
From courts	33	61·05
Total	2,234	73·00

EXPENSES.

	£ T.	Prs.
Salaries, &c.—		
May 16 to June 14	593	12·10
Credit balance	1,641	60·30
Total	2,234	73·00

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The monthly expenses in salaries will be as follows :—

	Gold Piastres.
Municipal Council	15,527·20
Head-quarters	4,340·20
Harbour-master's offices	3,075·00
Custom-house	9,200·00
Religious court	3,650·00
Muderiss (teachers of Koran)	6,390·00
Civil court	9,300·00
Engineer's offices	6,400·00
Police	7,100·00
Prison's guards	900·00
Total	65,882·20 = £T. 658 82·20 prs.

The revenue from the Custom House from the 1st June to the 14th June has been £T. 1,124 23·05 piastres, giving an average of £T. 174 per day (this allows for two Sundays, resulting in only eleven working days). Calculating on an average of £T. 150 per day, we can estimate the monthly revenue from Customs duty at £T. 3,900, omitting Sundays. The monthly expenses being £T. 658 82·20 piastres, the balance to the credit of the International Commission is £T. 3,241. In addition to the above, a monthly revenue of £T. 170 may be expected from the municipal council from rates, taxes, &c., making a total monthly net balance to the credit of the International Commission of £T. 3,411.

4. When the Commission first arrived, there was no money whatever available. Arrangements were therefore made with the Ottoman Bank to place 1,000*l.*, at 6 per cent., at the disposal of the Commission. Trade has, however, increased so much in the town during the month, that it has been unnecessary to touch this money, and the Commission now has a balance of £T. 1,641 at the Ottoman Bank, exclusive of the above-mentioned 1,000*l.*

There is an outstanding debt due from the Commission of £T. 1,449, or 31,950 kronen, for seventy-one standard lamps for lighting the streets, eleven of which were put in place by, and are being purchased from, the Montenegrin Government, and the remaining sixty ordered by the International Commission from Austria. These will be paid for as soon as possible.

5. The native police force which has been formed under the command of a British officer as chief of police has proved satisfactory, and has been increased from twenty to thirty-six men, *i.e.*, thirty-two police and four detectives. Twenty-two of these are directly under the orders of the chief of police, and assist in the general maintenance of order, attend to and bring up prisoners at the police courts; twelve are allocated to the municipal council and work under the orders of that body, while the remaining two are detectives employed by myself.

6. I propose to extend the native police force system by the introduction of a native force of gendarmerie under the command of a British military officer. This latter force will be mounted and will be used to patrol the districts and villages in the vicinity, and it will form the nucleus of any gendarmerie it may be decided to form later for the whole country of Albania.

I think the creation of this gendarmerie is highly necessary, as it is most desirable to let the native population in the districts round feel the influence and authority of the international force. I propose starting with twenty men, for which volunteers have been called for, and gradually to increase this number to fifty or even 100 men.

The cost of this force will amount at first to about 150*l.* a month in salaries, each man providing his own horse.

Both the gendarmerie and urban police force will be put into proper uniforms.

7. Up to the time of the surrender of Scutari, the Christian and Mussulman populations have led a life more or less apart from each other, and this divergence in caste has been increased by the fact that under Ottoman rule Christians always felt that all or most of the official positions were given to Mussulmans, and more especially to the fact that the Turkish Government have always employed Mussulman volunteers to put down the risings of the Christian malissors, thus creating many vendetta feuds.

Since the occupation of the town by the international force, every endeavour has been made to avoid any bias to either side in selecting candidates for official positions, and, as far as I can ascertain, this has had a beneficial effect on the feelings of the religious parties one to the other.

An invitation was issued to the principal men of the Christians and Mussulmans from the town and districts round to meet me, with a view to inducing them to waive

their religious contentions. I addressed the following speech to them, which was well received :—

"I have asked the chiefs of the neighbouring tribes and of the different religions to meet me here to-day; in the first place to meet as one family, and before we part I very much desire that you will all from henceforth remain as one family, and work and pull together for the good of the country, and forgetting from to-day all feuds and vendettas and to never allow them to return. And I would ask you to encourage all your people who have any cattle, or any other article which does not legally belong to them, to return them to their proper owners, and thus showing that the intention of living from henceforth together in one united family is not a mere matter of words only, but is one of deeds, and our firm intention to continue it for the future. I should also like, with your assistance and co-operation, to start clubs to which all sections should be members. I would suggest having a social club where you could all go and meet each other, and talk to each other, and exchange ideas for the good of the country; and then gymnastic clubs and literary clubs could be started, and also a club where languages would be taught. If these suggestions meet with your approval, and you would give me your ideas, I should be glad to interest myself in the matter, and so as to make a start we could get the social club established at once, and the commission would give it financial support. I would impress on you all that in unity we have strength, separated we lean towards weakness, and the falling apart of one from the other. My one idea is to make no difference whatever in any one section to any other, but to treat all alike, and for each one to have the same respect for any one religion as he or she has for their own, and, believe me, if it is desired that Albania should be a thriving and prosperous country, that this is the foundation stone on which we must build it up. The commission are ready and only too willing to assist you all by any means in their power, to making this a success, and remember the old proverb, 'that God helps those that help themselves.'"

In reply, they stated that it was their wish to work in all things together, and that no individual differences of religion would be allowed to break the harmony of the whole. They further said that they would like to confer together as to the best means to be adopted to form the club as proposed, and that they would come and see me with their proposals as soon as they had prepared them.

8. A large number of malissors feed their flocks and herds on the plains round about Medua and the Bojana River during the winter months. About June they leave the plains and go up to the mountains for the summer, as the plains are too unhealthy for man and beast. In order to effect this migration they pass through Scutari, but for the last two years the Turkish Government has prevented them returning to the mountain regions, on the pretext that they would increase the number of the mountaineers who were already in a state of rebellion. As a result of this action by the Turkish Government, large numbers of their flocks died, and sickness and death became rife amongst them during the summer months. Arrangements have now been made to pass these people through the town with their arms, flocks, and herds, so that they can reach the mountains, and I understand this is much appreciated by them.

9. The roads and streets of the town are in such bad order that the work of their repair and the rebuilding of the burnt portion of the Turkish bazaar will be the next items to be taken in hand. It is understood that the French company, which had a contract with the Turkish Government for repair and making of roads, is sending an engineer out to communicate with the international commission on the subject of a further contract for the continuation of the work already begun and half completed.

10. I would submit the following remarks on the future administration of Albania as a whole :—

It is essential that there should be an independent military force quartered in Albania for the next two or three years. Everyone who knows the conditions here and the people agree as to this, for it is considered that until the natives have learnt to respect law, order, and a stable Government, it is absolutely necessary to have an independent force sufficient to ensure and enforce authority.

It would probably be convenient to make three headquarters at, for instance, Scutari and near Durazzo and Valona, at each of which places a portion of this force would be quartered, and from which they would respectively control the surrounding inland districts.

Whether this force is to be international or composed of one nation is a matter for the Powers to decide, but I would submit that, if it were possible, it would be better

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for one nation to provide the whole, as it would be far more efficient, and questions could be dealt with more easily, especially if the Power in control had no political aims of its own in Albania.

The two Powers, Austria and Italy, which would be represented in an international administration, have for the last fifty years been so intimately connected with affairs in Albania that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for the new Albanian Government to prevent their further intrigues. It is feared that their principal aim would be to prevent rather than to promote the welfare of Albania, keeping a door open for future intervention.

It appears to me that the nation that could best administer the country alone would be Great Britain, as she has no vital interests here. The Albanians know this, and would accept England's administration sooner than any other.

Whether other Powers would concur in a single Power such as Great Britain (with suitable guarantees on either side) administering the country for the first two or three years, or whether Great Britain would encumber herself with such a task, are questions which I cannot answer, but I offer the above suggestions as they are in consonance with the ideas of the native population, as indicated to me each time I have interviewed them.

The administration which I would suggest should consist of a Parliament, composed of a representative elected by each tribe or community throughout the country, with Europeans in all the principal Government offices, who would be answerable to the High Commissioner selected by the Powers.

11. A gendarmerie, composed of Albanians with European officers, will be necessary to police the country. As this force gradually gets trained and imbued with the spirit of discipline the need of the independent force of European troops would gradually disappear, until eventually it could be dispensed with altogether and the country left to govern itself with only comparatively small supervision from the Powers.

12. The chiefs whom I met on the 15th instant informed me that Montenegrin troops are arriving in the Hoti country to occupy the villages and that they, the chiefs, intended returning to their tribes that night to raise their men against the Montenegrins. I restrained them from this, and telegraphed to the British Minister at Cettinje and to the Admiralty (telegram No. 2), informing them of the situation, and requesting that the Montenegrin Government might be asked to withdraw their troops.

As regards the northern boundary, I am convinced that if Hoti is given to Montenegro, the four tribes, Hoti, Klemeni, Kastrati, and Skreli, will rise together, and take hostile action against the Montenegrins, and continual bloodshed will ensue in that district, and Europe will have to face the same difficulties as she had to deal with after the Treaty of Berlin, when Plava and Goussinieh were to be occupied by Montenegro.

Of the Gruda tribe, which lies to the north of Hoti, I am not so certain, as it has not evinced such hostility to the Montenegrins. Hoti is the senior tribe, and the tribes have an alliance between them that, if Hoti fights, they all join in to help her.

I am, &c.

CECIL BURNEY, *Vice-Admiral.*

[29028] No. 312.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 298.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, June 24, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 268 of 18th June.

Grand Vizier to-day sent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to offer excuses and apologise for violation of domicile.

[29029] No. 313.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 299.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, June 24, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 264 of 6th June.

Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that necessary orders have beeu issued to

lighthouse administration to relight lights extinguished during war, except in Dardanelles and three others situated at Yeni Kalaa, near Smyrna.

No answer has been received to some of these instructions, and, diplomatic relations not being re-established with Greece, no instructions have reached island of Missi. Tenedos lights, relighted for two nights, have been extinguished by Greek authorities.

In view of above, no official notice published, but have been asked to inform steamship companies that, except those above mentioned, all lights on Turkish littoral have "begun to be lighted." Smyrna informed.

(Sent to Athens.)

[29030] No. 314.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 300.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Constantinople, June 24, 1913.*

TWELVE men found guilty of murder of late Grand Vizier were hanged this morning, including Damad Salih, a relative of the Sultan.

Many others were found guilty but are absent.

[29024] No. 315.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 154.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 24, 1913.*

MY Russian colleague, whom I have just seen, tells me that the Prime Minister resigned on finding the majority of the other members of the Cabinet opposed to his advice to submit unconditionally to Russian arbitration. The King, however, refused to accept resignation, and there are signs that other Ministers are gradually being converted to the Prime Minister's view. His Excellency is now endeavouring to reconstruct Cabinet, which Minister of War and Minister of Justice only have left. There is reason to hope that he will be successful, in which case he will be prepared to proceed to St. Petersburgh as soon as necessary.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[29032] No. 316.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 104.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 24, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 91 of 23rd June: Turkish troops from Yemen.

Minister for Foreign Affairs will reply through Greek Legation in London. Troops are free to go to Beirout or Smyrna, and might pass through Dardanelles if the Turkish Government gave any intimation of a desire to conclude definite treaty, which hitherto they have not done.

[29022] No. 317.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 24, 1913.*

BULGARIAN Minister here informs me that he learns from late Bulgarian Prime Minister, who is now in Vienna, that, before latter quitted office, Bulgarian Commander-in-chief had sent him a report that the Bulgarian army would be completely ready for action both against Servia and Greece by to-day's date. He also reported that Government must decide without loss of time for peace or for war, as he could not be responsible for maintenance of discipline if the army were kept inactive in the field. He expressed the opinion that Bulgarian army would be strong enough to crush both Servian and Greek forces.

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The Bulgarian Minister here is of opinion that war is inevitable, and that the force of public opinion will prevent the King of the Bulgarians finding a peaceful solution of the present situation.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is away for a few days, told me on Saturday night that he was anxious as to the outlook, as his most recent information was of an alarming character. The Russian Ambassador still maintains that Servian and Bulgarian dispute will be peacefully settled, and he openly states that Russia will in no case intervene in the event of war breaking out.

[28190] No. 318.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.**

(No. 236.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 24, 1913.

AT the meeting of the Ambassadors on the 18th June, the wording of the declaration to be made to Servia regarding rights of minorities in ceded territories was discussed. Sir A. Nicolson, in my absence, suggested the following *rédaction*, which the Ambassadors said they would transmit to their respective Governments:—

"Les six Puissances pourraient déclarer qu'il est indispensable que les Gouvernements serbe et monténégrin prennent d'urgence des mesures pour assurer à toutes les populations, sans distinction de religion, dans les territoires cédés à la Serbie et au Monténégro, la liberté et la protection effective de leur culte et de leur enseignement."

Count Mensdorff handed in the annexed paper, but no discussion ensued on it.

Count Benckendorff had received a telegram to say that if the French agreed to my proposed procedure regarding Albanian delimitation, he was authorised to do so.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 318.

Paper communicated by Count Mensdorff, June 18, 1913.

Evacuation de l'Albanie par les Serbes.

DES troupes serbes occupent les points suivants du territoire albanais:—

Sur la route de Scutari à Prizrend: Pouka (34 kilom. de Scutari); Tchafa Malit (43 kilom. de Scutari); Oura Vezirit (le pont du Vizir, 68 kilom. de Scutari), avec trois bataillons; Orochi (chef-lieu de la Mirditie, 50 kilom. de Scutari), avec 450 soldats.

Sous prétexte de désarmement, ou pour obtenir des signatures sur des requêtes en faveur de la Serbie, ces troupes se livrent à toute sorte de vexations contre la population du pays, et cela provoquera des soulèvements et des rencontres armés.

En outre, le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal est saisi d'une plainte de la part d'un sujet autrichien résidant dans le village de Zumbi, en Albanie, que les autorités serbes occupant ce village exigent de lui le paiement de contributions.

Enfin, il a été porté à la connaissance du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal que les autorités serbes ont enjoint à vingt gens jeunes du village de Zumbi d'entrer, comme volontaires, dans l'armée serbe, en leur faisant comprendre qu'en cas de refus de leur part on userait de la force.

Le village de Zumbi est situé entre Prizrend et Diakova, sur la rive droite du fleuve Drin, dans le territoire qui, par la délimitation des frontières nord-est, est assigné à l'Albanie.

Il appert donc de cette réclamation que les Serbes occupent encore le territoire compris dans les limites déterminées par les Puissances pour l'Albanie, et qu'ils y exercent des pouvoirs gouvernementaux.

* Also to Sir F. Bertie (No. 392), Sir F. Cartwright (No. 126), Sir E. Goschen (No. 197), and Sir R. Rodd (No. 160).

Le Cabinet austro-hongrois attacherait du prix qu'enfin le territoire albanais entier soit évacué par les Serbes.

Quand le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal a renoncé à insister sur l'incorporation de Diakova dans l'Albanie, il l'a fait en posant certaines conditions, sur l'accomplissement exact desquelles il doit absolument insister. Une de ces conditions était que le territoire assigné à l'Albanie soit évacué par les alliés.

[29196] No. 319.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Goschen.

(No. 203.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 24, 1913.

THE German Ambassador spoke to me to-day of the German desire to see that Turkish authority was strengthened in Asia Minor, and that the reforms for Armenia were handled with that end in view. The German Government thought that the Turkish Government should be represented at the consultation of the Ambassadors in Constantinople, but M. Sazonof was opposed to this.

I said that I had suggested that, as, finally, the reforms must be accepted by Turkey, it would obviously be necessary for Turkey to be consulted at some stage. It would perhaps be desirable that the Ambassadors should themselves agree upon a scheme, taking the reforms of 1895 as the basis for discussion, and then, when they were agreed about a scheme, take Turkey into consultation on the subject. There was an idea that the Turks had already drawn up a scheme of reforms themselves, and if so it would be discourteous to them to ignore their scheme. I thought, therefore, that the Ambassadors might inform the Turkish Government that they were beginning to discuss amongst themselves the question of reforms for Armenia, and to invite the Turks to send them any scheme of reforms of their own, if they had one ready, so that it might be taken into consideration. If the Turks did send something, it could be considered in connection with the scheme of 1895, which was the basis for discussion; but whether the Turks sent anything or not, the Ambassadors could proceed with their discussion of the 1895 scheme, and, when they were agreed, consult the Porte as to giving effect to it.

The Ambassador thought this a reasonable procedure.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[29175] No. 320.

Papers communicated by Count Benckendorff, June 25, 1913.

(1.)

Russian Circular Note.

(Confidentielle.)

M. SAZONOF télégraphie à Sophia et à Belgrade le (8) 21 juin:—

"M. Pachitch a déclaré au Ministre de Russie à Belgrade 'que le désaccord actuel au sujet du traité n'a pas servi aux yeux du Gouvernement serbe d'obstacle à accepter avec reconnaissance l'invitation à Saint-Pétersbourg et de déférer l'éclaircissement des malentendus avec la Bulgarie à l'arbitrage.'

"Dans l'opinion du Gouvernement Impérial, ces paroles du Ministre serbe constituent en mesure entièrement suffisante la garantie désirée par le Gouvernement bulgare.

"En effet, l'intention du Gouvernement Impérial est de procéder à l'arbitrage, en se fondant sur le droit que lui confère le traité. Le Gouvernement Impérial compte prononcer sa décision sur la base des données d'ensemble fournies par ce traité, son interprétation, les obligations qu'il impose et le degré auquel elles peuvent en pratique s'appliquer aux deux parties contestantes.

"Pour procéder à l'arbitrage, nous invitons le Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité à vous présenter dans un terme de quatre jours un mémoire formulant tous les arguments dont il dispose pour la défense de ses exigences.

"Un arbitrage au sujet des difficultés surgies entre la Bulgarie et la Serbie ne

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suffit pourtant pas à la solution des autres questions soulevées, en particulier celle d'une liquidation parallèle du différend gréco-bulgare. Un arbitrage amical et simultané pour cette dernière question nous paraît indispensable."

Saint-Pétersbourg, le 9 (22) *juin*, 1913.

(2.)

Note by M. Sazonof.

(Confidentielle.)

SIR G. BUCHANAN m'a communiqué de la part de Sir E. Grey les conclusions du Secrétaire d'État concernant Koritza. Veuillez faire part à Sir Edward très confidentiellement des motifs qui nous font considérer comme très importante la réunion de Koritiza à la Grèce. Ils concernent l'arbitrage bulgaro-serbe. La seule correction possible de la frontière prévue par le traité pourrait être celle d'assigner à la Serbie le territoire entre Ochrida et Presba, ce qui lui donnerait une frontière contiguë avec la Grèce, à laquelle elle tient essentiellement. Si Koritza est comprise dans les confins de l'Albanie, cette combinaison devient à peu près impossible, attendu qu'il ne resterait qu'un corridor trop étroit pour avoir de valeur d'aucune sorte. A cette considération d'ordre politique générale qui lui donne une importance spéciale vient s'ajouter que, pour sa part, le Gouvernement italien ne ferait pas objection à la cession de Koritza à la Grèce. D'autre part, il n'est guère contestable que Koritza se trouve sous l'influence de la culture grecque ; le Gouvernement grec dépense 250,000 fr , revenus de fondations différentes, créées au profit d'institutions à cet effet. Ceci détermina l'importance que la Grèce y attache.

En vue des difficultés sérieuses que, conformément à ce qui précède, ferait surgir le projet autrichien, Sir Edward Grey ne trouverait-il pas possible d'user de son influence pour modifier à cet égard les décisions actuelles du Gouvernement austro-hongrois ?

Saint-Pétersbourg, le 10 (23) *juin*, 1913.

[29097] No. 321.

Council of Foreign Bondholders to Foreign Office.—(Received June 25.)

17, *Moorgate Street, London, June* 24, 1913.

Sir,

WITH reference to our letter of the 5th instant respecting the Turkish Debt, we venture to hope that instructions have been sent to Sir Paul Harvey in the sense suggested in Sir Adam Block's letter to M. Pichon.

As the bondholders have no representative of their own at the conference we are entirely without information as to what is taking place.

I have, &c.

JAMES P. COOPER, *Secretary.*

[29118] No. 322.

Anglo-Syrian Trading Company to Foreign Office.—(Received June 25.)

20, *Princess Street, Manchester, June* 24, 1913.

Dear Sir,

WE notice in the newspapers that the Board of Trade are asked by the Foreign Office to request that copies of any contracts held by British subjects from the Ottoman Government in respect of enterprises conducted in the territory ceded by that Government to the Balkan State should at once be forwarded to the Foreign Office for the use of the British delegate of the Balkan Financial Commission.

In March 1912 one of our representatives visited Salonica and contracted with the gendarmerie department of the Ottoman Government at Salonica for the supply of woollens, blankets and cottons to the value of 30,000*l* ; deliveries commenced in August, and a few days before Salonica was taken by the Greek troops we received from the gendarmerie department six documents for £ T. 1,000 each, being orders for payment on the vilayet of Salonica. The face value of these documents—namely, £ T. 6,000—represented the amount then due to us against goods actually delivered to

the gendarmerie and in their stores at Salonica. Owing to the fall of Salonica we were unable to present these documents for payment, and the goods which they represented were taken over in the stores of the gendarmerie by the Greek Government.

At the commencement of this year we forwarded these documents to our Constantinople house, who presented same to the Turkish Government ; the Turkish Government, however, have not recognised same, stating that the goods in question had been taken over by the Greek Government, and that Salonica having passed out of their hands they could do nothing further.

We have not as yet abandoned all hope of getting the Turkish Government to recognise this debt to us, but seeing that the gendarmerie stores at Salonica were taken over by the Greek Government and that an amount of 5,600*l*. is owing to us for goods delivered to the gendarmerie in Salonica during August and September of last year, we would ask your Excellency if we are not entitled to put in a claim for the payment of the above balance by the Greek Government, who took over the whole of the Government gendarmerie depôts in Salonica.

The original contracts, written in Turkish, with the gendarmerie department are lying in Constantinople, but we have the honour of enclosing a French copy of one of these contracts herewith,* and can obtain from Constantinople the original documents in the course of a few days' time by cabling for same. The six documents, known as Senet-Mahsoussé bonds and amounting to £ T. 6,000, are lying deposited at the National Bank of Turkey, Constantinople.

In addition to the £ T. 6,000 which remains owing to us for goods delivered, we have lying in depôt at Salonica 4,000*l*. worth of goods shipped under our contracts which we were unable to deliver to the gendarmerie, and we have lying in England ready for shipment a further 6,000*l*. worth. The remaining balances of contracts we have been able either to cancel or to deliver elsewhere. As regards the 4,000*l*. of goods lying at Salonica in our bank's depôts and in the customs depôts, and on which duty has been paid, and the 6,000*l*. of goods lying in England, all these are woollens made specially for the gendarmerie, and we would ask if it cannot be arranged for the Greek Government to take over these goods at the gendarmerie contract price, seeing that they have taken over the gendarmerie department of the Ottoman Government.

The British consul-general at Salonica is aware of these contracts and of our position in the matter, and in December last he asked our local representative if he had received any instructions from us to put in a claim on the Greek Government ; we, however, have been trying without success to obtain recognition of our claim from the Turkish Government, and now we should be glad if, through the British delegate, any arrangement can be made to obtain recognition of our claims through the Balkan Financial Commission.

All further particulars required we should be only too pleased to forward, or our manager would at once leave for either London or Paris to present same personally, either to your good selves or to the British delegate, with any explanation necessary.

Awaiting the favour of your reply, yours faithfully,

R. H. LITTLEHALES, *Manager.*

[29142] No. 323.

Messrs. Francis and Johnson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 25.)

19, *Great Winchester Street, London, June* 24, 1913.

Sir,

WITH reference to the paragraph appearing in the "Times" newspaper of to-day's date to the effect that information is requested by the Foreign Office as to contracts or concessions held by British subjects in territory ceded by Turkey, we beg to state that we act for Mr. Hugh Henshall Williamson, of 61, Ennismore Gardens, S.W., colliery owner, and Mr. Charles Sydney Vesey-Brown, of Milburn House, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, civil engineer, who are joint owners of a concession granted by an Imperial firman under the sign manual of the Sultan of Turkey on the 18th February, 1913. This concession is for a period of ninety-nine years, and grants the exclusive right to extract, export, and work all iron ore found in a defined area comprising over 13 English square miles.

* Not printed.

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The defined area is situated in the sandjak of Kirk Kilisse, vilayet of Adrianople.

We are instructed that the original firman is deposited at the Imperial Ottoman Bank of Constantinople, under the control of our clients' resident agent.

We have in our possession a Turkish copy of the firman and also an original print of the "Jeune Turc" newspaper, in which the text of the firman is advertised in the French language.

We should feel obliged if you could inform us whether, in order to comply with the request of the Foreign Office for twelve copies, you would prefer that we should have the twelve copies prepared from the Turkish copy in our possession, or twelve copies of the French translation as appearing in the "Jeune Turc."

You will also doubtless instruct us whether the copies require to be identified in any particular manner.

We are, &c.
FRANCIS AND JOHNSON.

[29162] No. 324.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.—(Received June 25.)

Sir, *Board of Trade, June 25, 1913.*

IN reply to your letter of the 20th June, with its enclosures, I am directed by the Board of Trade to state that they have no records of contracts or concessions held by British subjects in respect of enterprises conducted in the territories ceded by the Ottoman Government to the allied Balkan States, nor of foreign undertakings in those territories in which British capital may be largely interested.

They have accordingly caused a notice, copy of which is enclosed, to be circulated to the press, as desired by Sir E. Grey. This notice will also appear in the next issue of the "Board of Trade Journal."

I am to add that the Board are proposing to communicate with the registrar of joint stock companies with a view to ascertaining whether he can supply particulars with regard to companies registered in this country under the Companies Acts, for the purpose of carrying on any operations in the territories referred to.

I have, &c.
GEO. J. STANLEY.

Enclosure in No. 324.

Notice circulated to the Press.

THE Board of Trade are asked by the Foreign Office to request that twelve copies of any contracts or concessions held by British subjects from the Ottoman Government in respect of enterprises conducted in the territories ceded by that Government to the Balkan States should at once be forwarded to the Foreign Office, for the use of the British delegate on the Balkan Financial Commission.

It is also requested that the directors of any undertakings, such as railways, in the same territories, in which British capital is largely interested, should communicate particulars of such enterprises to the Foreign Office with the least possible delay, in order that the British delegate on the commission may be enabled to watch the interests of the British shareholders concerned.

Board of Trade, June 23, 1913.

[29136] No. 325.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Athens, June 25, 1913.*

FOLLOWING from military attaché for the Director of Military Operations:—

"Please send me disposition of Servian and Bulgarian troops. Three Greek divisions are on right bank of the Vardar; the remainder are reported by Mr. Lamb to be already concentrated in Derbend-Langaza-Geul position, close to Salonica, but I regard this as improbable."

[29163] No. 326.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 155.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 25, 1913.*

THE Prime Minister proposes to-morrow to place before the Skupshtina for their decision the question whether he shall resign or remain, and whether Servia shall accept Russian arbitration unconditionally or not. It is not improbable that he has already made sure of securing a vote of confidence.

The press is extremely violent in its denunciations of Russia, the King of Servia, and the Prime Minister. It blames the two latter both for their weak policy and for being responsible for a treaty all in favour of Bulgaria. It appears to be more or less generally recognised that, strictly speaking, the right is on the side of Bulgaria, but this does not alter the determination to repudiate the stipulations of the treaty. There is some feeling of uncertainty as to what the army may do when it realises that the Government are backing down. One hears forced abdication of the King in favour of the Crown Prince and some deed of violence against the Prime Minister mentioned as possible contingencies of the present situation, but excitement in Belgrade is deceptive, and it is difficult at all accurately to gauge the extent of feeling in the country.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[29170] No. 327.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 25, 1913.*

I LEARN from Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that Bulgarians attacked this morning in strong force at Sletovo and Ratkovitza. Fighting, which is said to be serious, is going on.

(Sent to Sophia.)

[29171] No. 328.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Belgrade, June 25, 1913.*

MONTENEGRIN Prime Minister, who is on the way to St. Petersburgh, arrived here last night.

(Repeated to Sophia.)

[29270] No. 329.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 158.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Belgrade, June 26, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 156 of 25th June.

Accounts of fighting much exaggerated. I understand that both sides have retired, and the incident is considered settled.

[29165] No. 330.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Salonica, June 25, 1913.*

ONE hundred and twenty Russian soldiers were yesterday landed at the Russian Monastery on Mount Athos.

The King of Greece left again for Athens yesterday.

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[29188] No. 331.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 231.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 25, 1913.*

BULGARIAN Minister informed Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day that his Government could not accept arbitration unless on basis of treaty, and that they had decided to recall their representative from Belgrade.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, who considers this step tantamount to declaration of war, told Bulgarian Minister that Bulgaria was betraying Slav cause, and that Russia consequently denounced Treaty of 1902, under which she undertook to come to the assistance of Bulgaria in the event of her being attacked by Roumania.

His Excellency is inclined to think that Roumania will restrict her action to occupying line of Turtukai–Baltchik, and that Bulgaria will agree to cede territory comprised in that line. It is possible, however, that she will join forces with Greece and Servia for fear of allowing Bulgaria to become too powerful. In neither case will Russia move, as his Excellency thinks all that can be done is to try to localise war. If Bulgaria is victorious Austria is not likely to intervene, but if Servia is victorious Austrian intervention is to be feared, and in that case Russia would be forced to take action. He does not think that Turkey will take part in war.

Minister for Foreign Affairs said that present deplorable situation was due to Austrian influence.

[29185] No. 332.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 25, 1913.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs, who returned last night, tells me he considers situation between Bulgaria and Servia to be a little more hopeful, though he could not say he was sanguine as to a peaceful issue of crisis.

Greek Minister here expressed himself to me as most optimistic as to the crisis. Bulgarian Minister here, however, positively declares that, unless Servia gives way, war must ensue.

[29186] No. 333.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 25, 1913.*

ALBANIA.

Minister for Foreign Affairs complained to me to-day as to the very little progress made at the Ambassadors' conference with regard to creation of a permanent form of government for Albania. In his opinion it was essential that this government should be definitely constituted before the Ambassadors dispersed for holidays. If no permanent settlement were arrived at, the door would be left open for incidents being created by Albania's neighbours which might give rise to a situation of grave peril. Minister for Foreign Affairs observed to me that the Ambassadors seemed inclined to occupy themselves with small details of Albanian question, such as the railway and the Servian exit to the Adriatic, but that they shirked facing essential point, which was to create a permanent form of government for the country. With a little good-will it seemed to him that a practical solution of this question could be reached.

I learn from a confidential source that great impatience is being felt here at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs with regard to this delay, and that Austria and Italy are meditating the possibility of taking energetic measures to bring this question to a close.

With regard to southern frontier of Albania, Minister for Foreign Affairs declared to me categorically that he could not yield to Greek demand for Koritza. Nevertheless I learn from a very well-informed source that under German pressure Minister for Foreign Affairs is showing signs of being about to yield on this matter.

[28778] No. 334.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 285.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, June 25, 1913.*

YOUR telegram No. 264 of 8th June: Removal of mines.

Please telegraph as soon as all mines are removed from Turkish waters.

Would it be possible to obtain from Turkish Government, for information of Admiralty here, detailed statement of places which may be regarded as safe for navigation?

[29343] No. 335.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 26.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, June 25, 1913.*

WITH reference to telegraphic correspondence recently forwarded to the Admiralty (ending with Sir F. Elliot's No. 102 of the 20th June) relative to a possible intention on the part of Italy of retaining possession of Stampalia, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will draw the attention of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to previous correspondence, in which their objection to an Italian occupation of this island has been stated, and particularly to the memorandum enclosed in Admiralty letter of the 29th June, 1912.

I am, &c.
O. MURRAY.

[29287] No. 336.

Eastern Telegraph Company (Limited) to Foreign Office.—(Received June 26.)

Sir, *Electra House, Finsbury Pavement, London, June 25, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to refer to the notice which has appeared in the public press to the effect that the Foreign Office request that copies of contracts or concessions held by British subjects from the Ottoman Government, in respect of enterprises conducted in the territories ceded by that Government to the Balkan States, should be forwarded to your Office for the use of the British delegates on the Balkan Financial Commission.

I beg leave to enquire whether the above notice applies to concessions granted by Turkey to this company for landing and working cables in territory which is now occupied by Greece.

I have, &c.
J. DENISON PENDER,
Vice-Chairman and Managing Director.

[29189] No. 337.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 79.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June 25, 1913.*

MY immediately preceding telegram of 19th June and my despatch No. 61 of 15th June.

King, by whom I was received in audience to-day, while repeating to me that Bulgaria had made no proposals to Roumania, gave me to understand that Bulgarian Prime Minister had recently started sounding Roumanian Minister at Sophia, in the hope of eliciting proposals from Roumania.

His Majesty explained the attitude of Roumania broadly, as indicated in concluding sentences of my telegram No. 75 of 13th June.

[29350] No. 338.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 26.)

(No. 225. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June* 26, 1913.

SIR G. BARCLAY'S telegram No. 79 of 25th June.

Prime Minister informs me that he does not anticipate any great difficulty in coming to terms with Roumania.

I gather he would be prepared to purchase Roumanian neutrality temporarily with the intention of going to war with Roumania later.

Roumanian Minister tells me that he has not yet made any definite proposal, but that Bulgarian Government know that his Government wish for line from Turtukai to Balchik.

(Sent to Bucharest.)

[29351] No. 339.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 26.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, June* 26, 1913.

MY telegrams Nos. 97 of 13th June and 100 of 20th June.

Minister for Foreign Affairs told me this morning that the Montenegrin Prime Minister had telegraphed from Belgrade that he considered situation very critical, and that war was almost inevitable. At the request of Servian Government, based on treaty of offensive and defensive alliance concluded last August [group undecypherable] Montenegrin troops had advanced from Ipek to Mitrovitza, which they reached yesterday. He admitted number to be 14,000.

(Sent to Vienna and Belgrade.)

[29028] No. 340.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 289.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, June* 26, 1913.

YOUR telegram No. 298 of 24th June: Violation of domicile of British subject. May we assume that damages will be made good?

[29186] No. 341.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.

(No. 193.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 26, 1913.

YOUR telegram No. 91 of 25th June.

I do not believe it possible to get agreement for permanent organisation of Albania before the holidays. What I would suggest is that Provisional Government be agreed to, and application made to a neutral State to supply officers for gendarmerie. Minister for Foreign Affairs does not seem to appreciate that his view on this latter point has been accepted, though there was disagreement at first

Provisional Government would be without prejudice to elaboration of permanent organisation, but experience and suggestions of Provisional Government would be very valuable in elaborating permanent organisation later on. There seems to be apprehension at Vienna that French proposal for a Provisional Government is intended to get rid of a permanent scheme altogether, but there is no foundation for this; and to proceed by way of Provisional Government seems to me the only practical step possible just now.

As to frontier of South Albania, I still think a commission to draw frontier in accord with ethnographical and geographical conditions offers best chance of agreement, and without some such expedient I am unable to form a settled opinion about the frontier.

Austrian Ambassador tells me that Minister for Foreign Affairs has approved his expression of opinion that a commission as outlined by me would not be acceptable to Austrian Government. You should ask Minister for Foreign Affairs whether he could not suggest any conditions under which solution by a commission would be accepted by him. Otherwise there is a deadlock.

[28951] No. 342.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

(No. 93.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 26, 1913.

THE Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires informed Sir A. Nicolson on the 20th June that he had instructions to urge that the Powers should advise Turkey to demobilise. It was true that Bulgaria had not demobilised, but she had practically evacuated Thrace, and, so far as Turkey was concerned, this was equivalent to demobilisation. Sir A. Nicolson said that Sir G. Lowther had already instructions to advise demobilisation, but that all his colleagues had apparently not yet received the necessary authority, and, of course, we should only act in concert. Bulgaria had better knock at the doors of those who had not sent instructions. The Chargé d'Affaires said that the telegram he had received was a circular.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[28054] No. 343.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Carnegie.

(No. 399.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 26, 1913.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a letter from Sir R. Crawford, financial adviser to the Turkish Government, to Sir W. Tyrrell, relative to the finances of Turkey and the introduction of reforms into the Asiatic provinces of the Ottoman Empire.*

As regards the first of these points, I am of opinion that the reasons advanced by Sir R. Crawford against the immediate consolidation of the outstanding advances to the Turkish Government are valid, and that his suggestion that the fresh small advance required by them to carry on the administration should be secured on a mortgage on the land and buildings at Tophané is worthy of immediate consideration.

You should at once bring before the French Government Sir R. Crawford's reasons against consolidation scheme and his proposal to secure a mortgage on the Tophané lands in order that the French Government may see that this mortgage is secured in the case of any advances to the Turkish Government being made by French financiers. In the event of British financiers desiring to make advances we should take similar action.

You need take no action on the remainder of Sir R. Crawford's letter.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[28149] No. 344.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Carnegie.

(No. 400.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 26, 1913.

I HAVE received Sir F. Bertie's despatch No. 323 of the 19th instant, forwarding copy of a report from Sir P. Harvey of the proceedings at the first meeting of the committee of the Balkan Financial Commission appointed to examine the pecuniary claims of the belligerents.

I transmit to you herewith a despatch to Sir P. Harvey,† approving his action and language on that occasion.

* No. 235. † To Sir P. Harvey, No. 4, June 26, 1913.

You should take an early opportunity of impressing on the French Government the importance which His Majesty's Government attach to their support in resisting the proposal for the payment of a war indemnity by Turkey by the allied Balkan States.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[29557] No. 345.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Carnegie.

(No. 405.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 26, 1913.*

WITH Sir Arthur Nicolson I had a conversation with M. Cambon and M. Pichon this morning.

The prospect of the allies going to war with each other was discussed in the light of the latest information from St. Petersburgh, as contained in Sir George Buchanan's telegram No. 231 of yesterday.

It was agreed that if Russia was in favour of a policy of non-intervention we should support it strongly, and we considered that Austria could hardly refuse to agree to such a policy, though she might make some reserves. If she stipulated that the war should not be allowed to upset the resolutions already come to about the limits of Albania, &c., this could be agreed to.

M. Cambon and M. Pichon were informed of Austria's impatience about the organisation of Albania and her desire that this should be settled permanently before the Ambassadors separated for the summer holidays.

It was agreed that to accomplish this was impossible, and that our programme should be to arrange the Provisional Government of Albania and the application to some neutral minor State for gendarmerie officers. The experience gained by the Provisional Government would enable them to make suggestions that would be useful when the consideration of a permanent organisation for Albania was undertaken later.

I said that I would telegraph in this sense to Vienna.

I observed that it was out of the question that we should make war with Italy and Austria to get Koritza for Greece, especially as all the English who had visited the town assured me that, though Greek culture and Greek schools were there, the population was really Albanian.

M. Pichon agreed that France would not go to war about Koritza, but he said that he assumed that it was equally out of the question that France or England should join in using force against Greece.

I agreed, but pointed out that if we were not prepared to go to war for Greece she would be left alone to deal with Austria and Italy.

M. Pichon and M. Cambon both favoured my suggestion that there should be an international commission to settle the southern frontier of Albania.

I told them that Austria had practically refused to agree that the settlement should be referred to a commission with the question of Koritza left open.

M. Cambon suggested that I might make a general suggestion of a commission, leaving it to Austria to make conditions, which we could examine.

M. Pichon said that if Austria did definitely and irrevocably refuse to give way about Koritza we should have to yield the point.

M. Pichon said it was important that Italy should not retain the islands, and I said we were entirely in agreement about this. The Admiralty felt strongly on this subject, and we were prepared to take a very strong line about the islands, which we were not prepared to do about Koritza.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[29558] No. 346.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Carnegie.

(No. 406.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 26, 1913.*

DURING the conversation with M. Cambon and M. Pichon this morning, I said that Germany seemed to hesitate between two policies about Asiatic Turkey: her first

idea had been the integrity of Asiatic Turkey, possibly guaranteed by the Powers, and the consolidation and support of Turkish authority; latterly she had talked somewhat vaguely about spheres of interest. This second policy would lead to a partition of Asiatic Turkey and a complete disappearance of Turkish power.

M. Pichon said that the first policy was the one to be entirely preferred.

I agreed, and said that to make it effective there would have to be reforms agreed upon by the Powers and financial assistance based upon proper financial organisation. If Turkey was to be re-established, she must not be burdened with a heavy indemnity. Sir Arthur Nicolson and I pointed out to M. Pichon and M. Cambon how untenable the position would be in Parliament here if we agreed to an increase of Turkish customs dues, which would be levied greatly upon British trade and which would go, not to the good government and development of Asiatic Turkey, from which an increase of trade would result, but as an indemnity to the Balkan States, who were going to increase the customs dues in the territory that they had annexed.

M. Pichon entirely agreed, and said that in the French Parliament there would be the same difficulty.

M. Cambon said that Russia had talked much too emphatically about an indemnity, and he had pointed this out to M. Raffalovich, the Russian delegate to the Financial Commission in Paris.

M. Pichon gave it to be understood that the clear expression of our views in opposition to an indemnity had been welcome in Paris. The position of France in the matter was a difficult one, owing to her relations with Russia.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[28569] No. 347.

Foreign Office to National Bank of Turkey.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 26, 1913.*

WITH reference to the last paragraph of the letter from this Office of the 27th ultimo, relative to the desire of the National Bank of Turkey to obtain a statement of the receipts of the Turkish custom-houses and of their application, I am directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to transmit to you herewith an extract* from a despatch just received from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople containing the required information as to the amount of the receipts.

As regards their application, Sir G. Lowther reports as follows:—

"Although these figures of actual revenue have been procurable it has not been possible to ascertain how these receipts have been applied, but it is more than probable they have been appropriated in order to meet the extraordinary expenditure entailed in consequence of the state of war."

I am, &c.
LOUIS MALLET.

[28636] No. 348.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 192.)

Sir, *St. Petersburgh, June 20, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of an *aide-mémoire* which I have to-day received from the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs in reply to the communications which I addressed to that Department in accordance with the instructions contained in your despatches Nos. 159 and 209 of the 17th April and 29th May last in regard to the indemnity due to M. Zaïmis, the compensation to be paid to the family of the murdered Mussulman rural guard, and the question of the repayment of the advance of 4,000,000 fr. made to Prince George of Greece when High Commissioner by the protecting Powers.

I have, &c.
GEORGE W. BUCHANAN.

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* Extract from No. 281.

Enclosure in No. 348.

Aide-mémoire communicated to Sir G. Buchanan.

EN réponse à l'aide-mémoire en date du 13 (26) avril, année courante, le Ministère Impérial a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de l'Ambassade d'Angleterre qu'il n'a pas d'objections à la proposition du consul général de Sa Majesté britannique à La Canée d'affecter une partie de la somme provenant des revenus de la surtaxe de 3 pour cent et déposée à la Banque de Crète au nom des Puissances protectrices, au payement de l'indemnité due à l'ex-Haut Commissaire de la Crète, M. Zaïmis, ainsi qu'au dédommagement de la famille du garde champêtre musulman. En ce qui concerne le montant de la somme de cette dernière indemnité fixée comme il s'ensuit de l'aide-mémoire de l'Ambassade en date du 26 mai, année courante, par l'accord commun des représentants des Puissances à La Canée à 6,000 fr., le Ministère Impérial ne manquera pas d'inviter son consul à La Canée à se joindre aux démarches nécessaires à l'effet du remboursement de ladite somme à la famille du garde champêtre. En même temps le Gouvernement Impérial se fait un devoir d'informer l'Ambassade Royale qu'il vient de donner sur la proposition du Gouvernement d'Italie, son assentiment à la communication aux Cabinets de Berlin et de Vienne de la décision des Puissances protectrices de La Crète concernant le mode de remboursement de l'indemnité à la famille du garde champêtre Hamtzadaki.

Quant à la question de l'avance de 4,000,000 de francs faite en 1899 au Prince Georges de Grèce en sa qualité de Haut Commissaire, le Gouvernement Impérial ne verrait pour sa part aucun inconvénient à ce que ladite question soit soumise à l'étude de la Commission financière de Paris.

Saint-Pétersbourg, le 6 (19) *juin*, 1913.

[29357] No. 349.

Mr. Carnegie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 343.)

Sir, *Paris, June* 26, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a despatch which I have received from Sir Paul Harvey, reporting that the Committee of the Balkan Financial Commission charged with the examination of the statistical tables presented by the Ottoman delegation has made substantial progress in its work, and enquiring the views of His Majesty's Government as to the surplus revenues of Cyprus.

I have, &c.
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

Enclosure in No. 349.

Sir P. Harvey to Sir Edward Grey.

(No. 16.)

Sir, *Paris, June* 26, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that of the three committees constituted by the Balkan Financial Commission, that charged with the apportionment of the Ottoman Debt has made substantial progress with the examination of the statistical tables presented by the Ottoman delegation setting forth the constituent elements of the Debt, the revenues assigned to the service thereof, and other data bearing on the question before it.

A number of points of detail have been raised, principally by the Balkan delegates, but with a view to their elucidation rather than to their final settlement. For the present I need only draw your attention to the following matter.

By the decree of Mouharrem there is assigned to the service of the Ottoman Debt, among other revenues, the surplus revenues of the Island of Cyprus. It is added that, in the event of these not being available, there shall be substituted an assignment of £T. 130,000 on the produce of the tobacco tithe.

The British Government having appropriated the surplus revenue of Cyprus to the service of the guaranteed loan of 1855, the alternative assignment above mentioned has been applied, and figures in the statement of the assigned revenues submitted by the Turkish delegation.

At yesterday's meeting of the Committee the Servian delegate asked questions with regard to the employment of the excess Cyprus revenues designed to establish that the balance of that excess beyond the sum required for the interest of the loan in question is in fact "available" to be paid over to the Council of the Ottoman Debt, and should be deducted from the assignment of £T. 130,000 of the tobacco tithe. The balance referred to, as you are aware, is being accumulated by the British Government for the purpose of ultimately amortising the loan, although, so far as I am aware, the British and French Governments have not guaranteed this amortisation.

The question will come up for further consideration, and I should be glad to be favoured at the earliest possible moment with the views of His Majesty's Government on the point raised. The object of the Balkan delegations, I need hardly remark, is not to obtain the restitution to Turkey of the sums retained as sinking fund, but to reduce the annuity of £T. 130,000, for a portion of which, as it is drawn in part from European sources, they are to be held responsible.

The Committee on Concessions has been occupied with the collection of the documents necessary to the consideration of the questions before it.

The Committee on Claims for Compensation received only yesterday the claims presented by the allies in respect of the expenses of the war, and they have not yet been printed and distributed. They amount in effect to a claim for a war indemnity exceeding 70,000,000*l.* The President of the Commission has ruled that the question of principle involved can only be considered in a full meeting of the Commission, the Committee confining itself to a discussion of the figures and facts submitted.

I have, &c.
H. P. HARVEY.

[29408] No. 350.

British-American Tobacco Company to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 27.)

Cecil Chambers, 86, *Strand, London,*

Sir, *June* 26, 1913.

I OBSERVE in the press a request that directors of any undertakings, such as railways, in the territory ceded by the Ottoman Government to the Balkan States in which British capital is largely interested, should communicate the particulars of such enterprises to the Foreign Office with as least possible delay.

I do not know if the undertaking we are interested in is included, but I desire to say that, as owners of all the shares of the Export Leaf Tobacco Company (an American corporation), we have large financial interests in this territory and a large organisation for purchasing leaf tobacco, the purchases amounting in a year to over 250,000*l.*, and for some time the tobacco leaf is lying in the warehouses in various parts of Turkey as constituted prior to the Balkan war, notably at Cavalla, Xanthi, Smyrna, and Samsoun.

I may say the Export Leaf Tobacco Company does not own any land or buildings in the territory.

Should this undertaking be one coming within the scope of your request, and should you desire any further information, I shall be greatly obliged if you will let me hear from you.

I have, &c.
JOSEPH HOOD, *Director.*

[29459] No. 351.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 80.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June* 27, 1913.

I LEARN that instructions were sent last night to Roumanian Minister at Sophia to inform Bulgarian Government that Roumania would take action the moment war broke out.

(Confidential.)

I understand that the King was for immediate mobilisation, but was dissuaded by Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(Sent to Sophia and Belgrade.)

[29462] No. 352.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 93.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 27, 1913.*

FOLLOWING for the Director of Military Operations from the military attaché:—

"From a trustworthy source I learn that Montenegro has accepted the principle of giving assistance to Servia; that the second, third, and fourth divisions, in all 30,000 men, are being sent into the sanjak and Servia. Of these, 16,000 are now at Ipek, and their rôle is to cover right flank and rear of Servian army in the direction of Albania; 15,000 more are on their way to the sanjak to maintain order there, and to set free Servian troops for active operations."

[29345] No. 353.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Buchanan.

(No 481.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, June 27, 1913.*

I HAVE discussed possibility of war between Balkan States with French President, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador here. We all agree that it would be desirable to localise the war. There is apprehension that Austria may intervene, but we think this could be met by a proposal that attitude of Powers should be one of non-intervention. Italy certainly and Germany presumably would agree, and Austria could not refuse adherence and separate herself from all the others. She might stipulate that her non-intervention must be conditional upon an understanding that consequences of war between Balkan States must not upset resolutions already come to by the Powers about Albania, but this could be agreed to.

You should inform Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have informed Russian Ambassador of what has passed with French President and Minister for Foreign Affairs during visit, and am sending records to you by bag.

Visit has given great satisfaction here.

[30093] No. 354.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Goschen.

(No. 207.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 27, 1913.*

I SPOKE to the German Ambassador to-day in the sense of my telegram No. 193 of yesterday to Sir Fairfax Cartwright about the organisation of Albania and a commission for the southern frontier. I explained with regard to various places in dispute, such as Argyrokastro, Koritza, and so forth, that I had no settled opinion, and was prepared to see their allocation decided on ethnographical and geographical grounds, but that I hoped that Count Berchtold would not altogether oppose the idea of a commission. I gave the Ambassador a paraphrase of the telegram.

He said that he was sure that Count Berchtold would make a stipulation that Koritza should remain Albanian.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[30094] No. 355.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Goschen.

(No. 208.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 27, 1913.*

I TOLD the German Ambassador to-day, with regard to the visit to London of the President of the French Republic, that, as far as general politics were concerned, the speeches that had been made by the King and the President represented entirely what our conversations had been. All our talk on general politics had been on the lines of

these speeches, in the tone and spirit of them. In fact, I had never had conversations that were more peaceful in tendency.

We had discussed certain specific questions of the moment. Our first preoccupation had been the danger of war between the Balkan allies themselves, and on this we had found ourselves in complete agreement that all our efforts should be devoted to localising the war. I had suggested that, if this was to be done, it would be necessary to have an understanding that nothing that happened in a war between the allies was to upset the decisions already come to by the Great Powers about Albania. I found that the French view agreed with this.

Respecting Asiatic Turkey, I had observed that there were two possible courses. One was to consolidate the remaining Turkish dominions and to put Turkey on her feet. This would require reforms, including financial organisation, and also assistance from financiers. I had pointed out that, for this purpose, the International Financial Commission in Paris should avoid placing impossible burdens upon Turkey. The other course was a division of Asiatic Turkey into spheres of interest. This would lead to partition and to the complete disappearance of the Turkish Empire. I found that the French Government agreed that the first of these courses was entirely preferable to the other.

I said to the German Ambassador that I imagined that, on these two questions: of localising the war between the allies, if war broke out between them, and of making it our object to preserve the Asiatic dominions of Turkey, the German Government would be in agreement with us.

The Ambassador entirely concurred. He said that Herr Gwinner had talked too much in London about spheres of interest in Asiatic Turkey. It was perhaps natural for any one concerned, as he was, with special interests in special parts to talk in this way, but he had said more than was desirable. The view of the German Government was that every effort should be made to maintain the Turkish dominions, and not to divide them. Of course, if Turkish authority did collapse altogether, Germany would have special interests to preserve. The Ambassador went on to say that the Arabs seemed to be rather restless, and an Arab chief from Nejd had already made advances to the Germans, apparently on the assumption that Turkish rule was being broken up; but the Germans had declined to entertain his advances. Amongst other things, they regarded Nejd as a place where there would naturally be British interests.

I said that we also had had advances of the same sort made to us from chiefs; I thought more in the region of Busra and the Persian Gulf; but we had not encouraged them, because they presupposed a break-up of Turkish authority. Amongst other things, it would give great offence to Moslem opinion in British territory if we took part in a policy of destroying the Turkish Government and dividing its territory.

In the course of the conversation the Ambassador expressed cordial appreciation of the King's speech at the banquet to M. Poincaré, and on my remarking that I thought he ought to be satisfied also with the speeches of M. Poincaré, especially with such things as he said at the Guildhall, the Ambassador concurred.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[29523] No. 356.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 134.)
Sir, *Athens, June 19, 1913.*

THE history of the abortive attempt to invite the belligerents to reduce their armed forces is rather curious.

Your telegram No. 82 (No. 246 to Constantinople) of the 6th instant reached me on the following day. The Austrian Minister was one of the first to receive similar instructions, the Italian and German Ministers were the two last, the latter not informing me until the 12th instant that he was prepared to join.

On my going round to my colleagues to tell them we were ready to act, I found that the Austrian Minister had received two days before an instruction to telegraph to Vienna the text of what we proposed to say before communicating it to the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs. If he had told me at once, we might have settled the text while waiting for the German Minister; as it was, we had not thought that the simple message which had to be conveyed required our collective wisdom to put it

into shape. However, the words "Les Gouvernements des Grandes Puissances ont chargé leurs représentants d'inviter les belligérants à réduire immédiatement leurs effectifs de guerre" were agreed upon, in the absence of the French Minister, who had gone straight off to make the communication to the Greek Minister, as soon as he heard we had all received the instruction to act.

It was not until the 15th that the Austrian Minister received the instruction to abstain from making the representation, upon grounds of which, as they were to be communicated to you by the Austrian Minister, you will have been able to appreciate the unconvincing nature. It is tempting to draw the inference that Austria, never having had any intention of pressing for the reduction of the forces of the Balkan States, resorted with the connivance of the other members of the Triple Alliance to expedients to allow time for Bulgaria to complete the concentration of her troops against her allies.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

[29525] No. 357.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 28.)

(No. 136.)
Athens, June 19, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 60 of the 11th instant instructing me to endeavour to induce the Greek Government to assume the liability of the Cretan Government to the estate of the late Dr. Ittar on annexing the island of Crete.

I have the honour to submit that there would be some inconsistency in putting forward this claim before the annexation has been sanctioned by international act, and while the Greek Governor-General is unrecognised by His Majesty's Government. The settlement has now been awaited so long that a few weeks more or less can make no difference. Perhaps it may be possible to insert in the Act sanctioning the annexation a clause providing that Greece shall take over all properly substantiated obligations of preceding Governments, whether Turkish or Cretan, of which there must be others besides this Ittar claim.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

[29513] No. 358.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 28.)

(No. 555.)
Constantinople, June 24, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's vice-consul at Cavalla, drawing attention to the effect of the closing of that port to shipping.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 358.

Acting Vice-Consul Morgan to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 27.)
Cavalla, June 12, 1913.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the port of Cavalla has now been closed to general navigation for over a month, and the effects of this measure are now beginning to be severely felt by all.

The commercial houses, of which eleven are English, have been unable to despatch or receive goods, the banks are unable to bring in money from outside, flour is becoming scarce and is sold at high prices, and fuel, usually brought here in sailing ships, is almost unobtainable.

The censorship of letters is also a great restriction on commerce. One censor only

has been appointed, and is unable to cope with the mail daily despatched from Cavalla, and postal delays are inevitable.

The closing of the port of Cavalla is, in my opinion, more due to the representations of over-zealous and inexperienced local officials than to any military necessity, and it would be desirable in the interests of British and foreign commerce that the measure should be speedily revoked.

I have, &c.
JAMES MORGAN.

[31751] No. 359.

Count Mensdorff to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 28.)

(Translation.)
London, June 27, 1913.

Sir,

I DID not fail to communicate to my Government the note dealing with foreign navigation in the harbours and territorial waters of the Balkan States, which you were good enough to address to me on the 14th April last.

This note, which has been carefully studied, has provided the Austro-Hungarian Government with the desired opportunity to explain in detail the standpoint they have taken up in this matter, and to make their observations upon the considerations put forward by the British Government.

The motives which inspired the Vienna Cabinet in this matter are set forth in the memorandum which I have the honour to send you herewith.

The Austro-Hungarian Government would be very gratified if the British Government would again submit to a benevolent consideration, in the light of the explanations given in this memorandum, our proposals for the settlement of questions affecting international shipping in the Levant. The Vienna Cabinet at the same time entertain the hope that their proposals, which, as explained in the annexed memorandum, are not directed towards obtaining special advantages for the monarchy, but the realisation of which would ensure in a like measure the justifiable interests of all Powers concerned in navigation in the Near East, will now be favourably received by the British Government, and that the London Cabinet will bring their great influence to bear in order to secure a favourable reception for our proposals.

I have, &c.
ALB. MENSDORFF.

Enclosure in No. 359.

Memorandum communicated by Count Mensdorff.

(Translation.)

1. FROM the Foreign Office Note of the 14th April last relative to the attitude of the British Government towards our proposals with reference to international shipping in the Levant, the Austro-Hungarian Government understand that the London Cabinet, although not considering it necessary for British interests that the four articles suggested by us should be incorporated in the articles of peace terminating the Balkan War, are yet not indisposed to give consideration to this matter if all the Great Powers should find themselves in agreement as to the utility of such stipulations.

2. The above-mentioned note from the Foreign Office, which has been very carefully studied, gives the Austro-Hungarian Government the opportunity they desire in order to explain in detail the standpoint which they have adopted on this question, and to make their observations upon the considerations put forward by the British Government.

3. It is, of course, far from the intention of the Austro-Hungarian Government to express an opinion as to how far British interests are in point of fact safeguarded in every direction by the existing commercial treaties, the stipulations of which, as the Foreign Office remark, will automatically come into force after the conclusion of the war in all the Turkish territories falling to the Balkan States.

4. The Vienna Cabinet feel, however, obliged to point out that the principle in international law of so-called movable treaty limits ("bewegliche Vertragsgrenzen") has hitherto not, as a rule, been interpreted in practice in the direction that rights belonging by treaty to third Powers within the limits of territories transferred into the possession of another Power should *ipso jure* be extinguished as a result of the mere

cession of territory, or that the international arrangements concluded by the acquiring State should automatically extend to the new territorial accessions.

5. On the contrary, in spite of the maxim of international law referred to, or rather on account of its practical consequences, which seriously prejudice the well-acquired rights of the particular States, the Powers have always adhered to the practice, also sanctioned by theoretical international law, that in cases where they have made territorial acquisitions at the cost of a third State, the Governments of the other Powers are acquainted with the impending or completed alteration of the legal situation in order that, by this notification, they may be given the opportunity of deciding upon their attitude towards their interests, special or common rights and privileges, which are affected by the modification of territorial possessions impending or already actually carried into effect, and of taking steps in proper time in order to safeguard these interests, rights, and privileges.

6. The liquidation of the Balkan crisis now impending should, in the view of the Austro-Hungarian Government, be the moment when the Great Powers should submit to a thorough revision the political situation affecting their shipping interests in the waters and harbours of the Balkan peninsula.

7. The British Government no doubt agree with the Austro-Hungarian Government that the treaties of commerce and navigation concluded by the Great Powers with the Balkan States are naturally both in point of permanency and of material advantage much more limited than the capitulations with Turkey; that they relate to a far more limited domain of economic or shipping activity, and that they in no wise allow for the revolutionary changes which have taken place in the Balkan peninsula.

8. The objection that the stipulations recommended by us are, on the whole, capable of attainment or already attained through the treaties of commerce and navigation concluded or to be concluded with the Balkan States can, upon consideration, scarcely be maintained. The Austro-Hungarian Government venture to point out that the treaties of commerce and navigation concluded by the United Kingdom with Bulgaria and Greece *can be terminated upon one years's notice*, and therefore a permanent assurance of the rights appertaining especially to England in the portions of Turkish territory falling to the share of Bulgaria and Greece ought certainly not to be regarded as superfluous.

9. If, in connection with the division of the greater part of European Turkey, as a consequence of which the very extensive shipping and commercial advantages hitherto belonging by treaty to the Great Powers in these territories will be extinguished, the possibility were not reserved to those Powers of exercising influence upon the subsequent re-arrangement of the conditions in question, their commerce and shipping would suffer extremely serious prejudice.

10. It seems, moreover, quite out of the question that the Balkan States, in the economic and financial conditions in which they will be after the present war, can create for themselves immediately and in the near future in all provinces of economic activity, and more especially in the province of shipping, economic organisation (shipping fleets ("Schiffparks"), navigation facilities ("Schiffahrtsanlagen"), and well-equipped ports ("Hafenlagen")) on such a scale that they will be able, out of their own resources, to provide for the needs of international commerce and traffic within a measurable space of time, and in such measure as this has hitherto been accomplished by the shipping companies of the Great Powers in the Levant.

11. European shipping has previously found in the capitulations a permanent assurance of its freedom in the waters and on the coasts of the Turkish territories now ceded to the Balkan States. It cannot therefore be said that the Balkan States, who, as the parties acquiring these territories, step into the rights of Turkey, suffer a prejudice to their right by reason of the continuance of this assurance; *on the contrary, it is the European States whose legal position in the Orient is threatened if this assurance is to be abolished.* This menace to their position might assume a most prejudicial and dangerous aspect in the event of the reform of the capitulations in Turkey being undertaken.

12. The objection may be raised that an appeal to the capitulations does, indeed, offer assurances for freedom of navigation in the territorial waters of the territories formerly belonging to Turkey, but that it does not offer such an assurance in respect of the original territory of the Balkan States; as against this it should be borne in mind that the fundamental principles to be laid down under the Austro-Hungarian proposals for the regulation of navigation cannot well be allowed to vary in different coastal districts of one and the same State. It should further be borne in mind that our proposals do not in any way demand of the Balkan States the assumption of oppressive obligations

derogatory to their sovereign rights, but merely the observance of those general principles which in any case usually govern modern navigation.

13. In these circumstances the permanent settlement of questions relating to international shipping in the ports and territorial waters of the Balkan States, as proposed by us, cannot, in the opinion of the Vienna Cabinet, be regarded in an economic sense as a *capitis diminutio*, incompatible with the sovereign rights of the Balkan States; and at the same time it should not be overlooked that, according to the generally recognised theory of international law, a State may in different ways fail to exercise a fundamental sovereign right—either of its own accord or in virtue of a treaty stipulation in favour of another State or generally in order to benefit third States—without such renunciation on its part bringing its sovereignty into question.

14. The coasts of the Balkan peninsula, particularly the territories recently acquired by Greece and Bulgaria, do not merely form the approach to the territories owned by these two States; their hinterland is on the contrary the whole interior of the Balkan peninsula; the route of the international transit trade to Servia, a State possessing no coast of her own, passes across these coasts, while in certain circumstances the Ægean coasts may be traversed by the trade route to Roumania, after the completion of the railway already planned and partly executed. After the connecting up of the Greek and Macedonian railway systems, the Piræus will also gain a position of increased importance for the international transit trade. *Thus the* régime *in force in the ports of the Balkan peninsula is not of importance to those States only in whose possession the various ports lie*; and on this ground alone its seems justifiable to take timely steps to secure, by means of international agreements and in the interest of international commerce, freedom of trade and a measure of protection against disputes and protectionist tendencies.

15. Experience shows that in the case of young States and small peoples, especially after important military successes, there is a certain tendency to hasten their further development by the adoption of a policy of force, and the tendency is still further increased in matters relating to shipping by the fact that *the shipping interests of the Balkan States outside their own territory are comparatively small, so that they have little to fear from reprisals* if they should adopt a system of preference in favour of the national flag. The interests of foreign shipping in the Levant are incomparably greater than those of Greek, or even of Bulgarian shipping in the rest of Europe, so that the considerations which recently gave rise in America to the proposal for a flag duty and a preference to United States ships in the matter of the Panamá Canal dues apply to the Balkans in an even higher degree. The danger is yet further increased by the fact that *political and economic contradictions and differences among the Balkan States might in themselves give the necessary impetus to a policy of differentiation* which would then react unfavourably on European trade. It is only necessary here to recall the different customs measures taken by Bulgaria and Servia in regard to trade with Salonica, partly with the object of demonstrating the economic connection of the port with their own territory. On the other hand a close *economic association of the Balkan States in a Customs Union* is not beyond the bounds of possibility. If within an enlarged economic entity of this kind preferential measures were to be taken in favour of the national shipping of the allied States, the economic effect of such measures would be considerably enhanced, and the temptation to take them correspondingly increased.

16. In view of the above considerations it seems essential to set on one side any sentimental regard for the possible susceptibilities of the States concerned, and to eschew too restricted an interpretation of the theoretical doctrines of international law respecting the sovereign rights of States, in order resolutely to safeguard the common interest of all the Great Maritime Powers in preserving freedom of navigation in the Levant. *The impending readjustment of the territorial* status quo *in the Balkan peninsula offers an opportunity for this, which, if allowed to slip, may never recur.*

17. Owing to her geographical position and her close commercial relations with the Balkans by land and sea, Austria-Hungary will perhaps be able more easily than other States to protect her interests by repressive measures, should such prove to be necessary.

18. The Imperial and Royal Government, in putting forward the proposal for a permanent international settlement of these questions, are aiming at the *preservation of an interest common to all the Great Maritime Powers*—an interest which is also their own.

19. The object of our proposals is purely to secure unrestricted and permanent recognition of the community of interest of the Great Maritime Powers of Europe in

all matters concerning shipping in the Levant and to guard against the interests of the Powers being endangered by protectionist measures on the part of certain Balkan States in favour of their national shipping or of certain foreign States.

20. To this end the principle of *full freedom of navigation* in the ports and territorial waters of the Balkan Peninsula is laid down in the first of the four articles comprising the Austrian proposals, and it is stipulated that the vessels of all European States and their cargoes shall be placed in these waters on an equal footing in every respect both as regards each other and as regards national vessels and the vessels of every other Power. In this manner equality of treatment with the national flag on the one hand, and unrestricted most-favoured-nation treatment on the other, is secured to all European States. The ships of extra-European States cannot, under the proposed article, be treated better, though they may be treated worse, than those of European States.

21. The provision for unrestricted equality of treatment with the vessels under the national flag includes, of course, in its scope the full right of participation in the *coasting trade*.

22. In view of the observations on this subject in the Foreign Office Note, the Austrian Government think they may expect that the London Cabinet will concur in principle in their standpoint towards the coasting trade question. If no stipulation on the subject were made, there would be danger that the coasting trade between Crete and the other islands to be transferred to Greece and the Piræus or Salonica, which has perhaps hitherto been carried on in English ships, might be reserved for Greek shipping.

23. As regards article 2, it contains in its first paragraph the application to harbour and navigation dues of the general principles laid down in article 1. While it places in a position of equality in this respect native and foreign ships and the different flags, it establishes only one practice, which is universal in Europe. The regulations proposed in the second paragraph of this article do, indeed, go somewhat beyond the scope of general practice, but are justified in view of the peculiar conditions of the East. They offer protection against the levy of dues for services which either are not rendered or are not required by shipping; further, they assure to shipping the right to use its own resources for loading and unloading, and for this purpose to maintain lighters and tugs in the harbours, in order to avoid the compulsory use of specified loading and unloading appliances or the employment of specified persons and undertakings. Both measures are intended *to prevent an unjustified imposition of dues on shipping, contrary to the spirit of modern traffic conditions*—dues which are levied on the pretext of the maintenance of existing labour-saving appliances and arrangements, such as quays, cranes, lighters, workmen's union, &c., whereas these arrangements are really insufficient, unpractical, and useless, or, on account of the height of the dues imposed, a pretext for the exploitation of traffic for fiscal purposes or for the benefit of private undertakings.

24. This latter regulation is also intended to protect international shipping from the heavy losses which might be entailed by the boycotts, strikes of local harbour men, lightermen, and others, which have taken place in recent years in Levant ports, principally as a political weapon, and generally with the connivance of the local authorities.

25. Against these regulations, in so far as they allow foreign ships to use their own resources and their own personnel for loading and unloading, and for this purpose to maintain in the ports lighters and tugs under their own flag, it might reasonably be urged that they were intended to release international shipping from the payment of local or Government dues for loading and unloading vessels in Balkan ports.

26. It would be easy, however, by a corresponding amplification of the article in question, respecting the liability to taxes and dues of such appliances—dues which must not exceed those levied from native services of the same kind—to arrive at a compromise between the fiscal interests of the Balkan States and those of international shipping concerns.

27. The Vienna Cabinet venture to point out that until the well-known big strike of the Constantinople lightermen, the principal international shipping companies employed their own lighters and personnel there and still do so in various Turkish ports and waters.

28. Article 3 lays down that in the importation, exportation, transit, or *entreposage* of goods, and in the dues and tolls imposed thereon, no difference shall be made between the various flags, *i.e.*, that goods of the same kind and origin, irrespective of the flag under which they are carried, must be treated in the same manner. This article,

of course, does not lay down the inadmissibility of prohibitions of importation, exportation, or transit of certain goods or of goods originating in a certain country, and still less the inadmissibility of a differentiation of dues and tolls on goods of different origin. For instance, in the absence of a treaty or in a tariff war goods originating from a certain country could be subjected to higher dues than similar goods of a different origin, or their importation might even be forbidden. Such differentiation, however, must not be connected with importation in ships flying a particular flag, but must take place without regard to the ships and the flag carrying the goods on which differentiation is to be made. In other words, the article is no clog on the commercial policy of the Balkan States, but only a safeguard for the freedom of shipping. It forbids *droits de pavillon* and other differentiation according to the flag flown by the ship which carries the goods, but hinders in no way a differentiation on the goods according to their origin, or a limitation of commerce in certain classes of goods.

29. Article 4 finally lays down the principle of equality with natives and most-favoured-nation treatment in regard to the use of navigable canals, rivers flowing into the sea, artificial waterways and inland waters connected therewith. It finds a prototype on the one hand in the Capitulations, which assure to ships of European countries the right of navigation from the sea to the rivers and from the rivers to the sea under their own flag, and on the other hand in the agreements respecting international rivers.

30. The article has a practical importance for navigation on the Boyana and Lake Scutari, and also in the event of the lower waters of the Marica and Vardar being made navigable and the reported proposal to connect the sea with certain lakes by navigable channel, *e.g.*, the Tahyno Lake near Serres. It is only necessary to refer to the observations made by the Foreign Office in regard to the text of article 1.

31. The Imperial Government need no inducement to declare that they have not the slightest intention of applying the four articles in question to the territories in Europe left to Turkey at the close of the present war, all the more so as they propose to maintain now as before in regard to the Ottoman Empire the continuation of the Capitulations régime.

32. The English objections could, therefore, be met by quoting by name the Balkan States involved, Turkey of course being omitted.

33. The Imperial Government are very anxious that His Britannic Majesty's Government should give their friendly consideration again, on the basis of the above explanations, to the regulations which we propose for international shipping in the Levant. The Vienna Cabinet venture to hope that their proposals, the object of which, as appears from the above explanations, is not to obtain special privileges for the monarchy, but to assure to all Powers interested in shipping in the Near East the exercise in equal degree of their just rights, will now find a favourable reception at the hands of His Britannic Majesty's Government, and that the London Cabinet will use their great influence to secure a favourable reception to our proposals.

[29554] No. 360.

Admiralty to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 28.)

Admiralty, June 27, 1913.

Sir,

WITH reference to Admiralty letter of the 23rd instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will inform the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that Vice-Admiral Burney's proposal to place Lieutenant Green, West Yorkshire Regiment, in command of the gendarmerie at Scutari has been approved.

I am, &c.
W. GRAHAM GREENE.

[29654] No. 361.

British American Tobacco Company to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 28.)

Cecil Chambers, 86, *Strand, London, June* 27, 1913.

Sir,

WE beg to write you with regard to the position of the business in that portion of Turkey which is occupied by the Bulgarian and Grecian troops.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE LONDON

As you are aware, we are the owners of the shares of Export Leaf Tobacco Company, which purchases tobacco in large quantities in the tobacco-growing districts, and for some time past there have been considerable difficulties in carrying on the business.

So far as our representatives can judge, the countryside is not only being depopulated, but the troops in occupation of the territory are not trying to protect the industry upon which the countryside depends.

The Export Leaf Tobacco Company purchased 2,500 bales of the value of about 5,000*l* at Nevrocop, near Drama, but the Bulgarian troops refuse to allow the company to take most of it away because of the claim of the Agricultural Bank against the planter, although the Export Leaf Tobacco Company paid the planter for the tobacco months ago, and the Bulgarian authorities passed the necessary formalities of transfer from the planter to the Export Leaf Tobacco Company. They claim to retain sufficient tobacco in hand to pay the debt to the Agricultural Bank, whose affairs they have taken over.

The company also purchased about 600 bales of tobacco at the village of Avli, in the Pangeon Mountain, and paid for it, and it was stored in the planters' houses, but are not permitted to take it away (although they were desirous of doing so before the recent trouble between the Bulgarians and the Greeks), and the consequence is that 450 out of the 600 bales are unaccounted for.

The trade is further embarrassed by the fact that the port of Cavalla has been closed for six weeks this time, and has been closed on previous occasions.

The authorities apparently do not assist the export of tobacco, as experience has shown that the boat arrives for the purpose of taking it off but is not permitted to load the cargo, and after staying a week or so for the purpose, it sails away without it. All this involves additional expense to the company.

May we ask you to kindly take up through His Majesty's Ministers these three points, namely, the tobacco at Nevrocop, the tobacco at Avli, and the question of the delay in export from Cavalla, as well as the general difficulties from day to day with the Bulgarian and Greek authorities, with a view to the condiction of things being remedied. Possibly, if a representative of the Bulgarian Government was sent from Sophia to investigate the conditions on the spot an improvement would result.

We are, &c.
(For the British American Tobacco Company (Limited)),
JOSEPH HOOD, *Director*.

[29521] No. 362.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 226.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 27, 1913.*

THE military attaché informs me that the Bulgarian cavalry is at present distributed as follows:—

One regiment north of the Balkans.
Division of four regiments west of Sophia.
Brigade of two regiments at Kustendil.
Division of four regiments near Strumnitza.
The newly-formed mounted infantry is with the 12th division.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[29522] No. 363.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 227.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 27, 1913.*

OVER 500 wounded soldiers have arrived since 25th June, I am informed, from the neighbourhood of Ishtip. Official circles deny that any serious fighting has occurred.

Two English Red Crescent doctors have been requested to serve with Red Cross, and left yesterday.

Cholera has appeared at Radomir and other military centres.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[29534] No. 364.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 228. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 27, 1913.*

MY telegram No. 224 of 23rd June.

Bulgarian Government informed Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs on 25th June that if Servia agreed to accept arbitration unconditionally Bulgaria could only do so on condition that it was strictly within lines of treaty, and that decision should be given within ten days of submission of their case.

Russian Government are much annoyed at latter condition, object of which is to leave Bulgaria free as soon as possible to deal with Greece. They have to-day replied refusing time limit, and making it *sine quâ non* of arbitration that differences with Greece should be likewise submitted to arbitration. They have requested an immediate answer, which Bulgarian Government say they cannot give until they know decision of Skupshtina. Political situation changes hourly.

(Sent to Belgrade.)

[29962] No. 365.

Note communicated by Count Benckendorff, June 28, 1913.

M. SAZONOF télégraphie à Sophia:—

"*Saint-Pétersbourg, le* 13 (26) *juin*, 1913.

"Dans le désir de tenter un dernier effort de conciliation, veuillez proposer à M. Danef de nous informer de sa décision d'arriver à Saint-Pétersbourg pour y prendre part aux conférences des représentants des autres États balkaniques, simultanément avec la remise des mémoires bulgare et serbe. Cette remise indiquerait l'acceptation par la Serbie de notre arbitrage et en constituerait le début. Au cas d'un refus le Gouvernement Impérial devrait considérer épuisés tous les moyens de persuasion pour une solution pacifique de la crise."

Ambassade Impériale de Russie, Londres,
le 28 *juin*, 1913.

[29668] No. 366.

Sir P. Harvey to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 47.)
Sir, *London, June 28, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of a speech made by M. Valaoritis,* the Greek delegate, at the opening meeting of the committee of the Balkan Financial Commission appointed to deal with the apportionment of the Turkish Debt.

I also enclose copies of the speech made by M. Miouchkovich,* the Montenegrin delegate, at the opening meeting of the committee on the claims to compensation arising out of the war.

These two speeches, read together, indicate the attitude of the Balkan delegations on these two questions, which is, broadly, that the acceptance by the Allied States of a share of the Ottoman Debt is not obligatory upon them and should equitably be compensated by the payment to them by Turkey of a substantial war indemnity.

I should add that on the conclusion of the reading of M. Miouchkovich's speech, the president of the commission, M. de Margerie, indicated his view that the questions of principle involved must be reserved for the plenary commission, and could not be discussed in the committee. It will be observed that the latter part of the speech sets forth the view that the principle of a war indemnity must be held to have been conceded and that the only business of the committee is to consider its amount. The German delegate proposed to record his protest against this assumption, in which I should have joined, but the president declared this course unnecessary, the whole subject being reserved for the plenary commission.

I have, &c.
H. P. HARVEY.

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* Not printed.

[31751] No. 367.

Note communicated by Count Mensdorff, June 28, 1913.

(Translation.)

IN proposing a permanent international settlement of political matters affecting shipping interests in the waters and harbours of the Balkan Peninsula, the Austro-Hungarian Government are acting in the common interests of all seafaring European Powers.

We desire that the Balkan States shall not treat foreign shipping more unfavourably than their own. There is ground for the fear that they will impose heavy dues on foreign shipping.

We further wish that the right to engage in the coasting trade between Crete and the islands to be attached to Greece and the Piræus and Salonica, shall be preserved, for our shipping is interested in it. England has a similar interest. Her commercial treaties with Bulgaria and Greece can be denounced on one year's notice, and they therefore offer no permanent assurance of the rights hitherto appertaining to Great Britain in the portions of Turkish territory which are to fall to Bulgaria and Greece.

The Austro-Hungarian Government would be very glad if the British Government would again take the considerations put forward by us into benevolent consideration, and seeing that it is a question of securing the justifiable interests of *all* Powers concerned in navigation in the Near East, if they would bring their influence to bear in order to obtain a favourable reception for our proposals.

[29569] No. 368.

Memorandum communicated by Turkish Embassy, June 28, 1913.

LES réformes intérieures ayant fait l'objet de la constante préoccupation du Cabinet Mahmoud Chevket Pacha, il avait été accordé aux conseils généraux, conformément à la loi provisoire sur l'administration générale des vilayets, le droit de décision pour les affaires d'intérêt local; les budgets des vilayets avaient été séparés, les attributions et les devoirs des fonctionnaires élargis et précisés; en vue de faciliter le jugement des procès de moindre importance qui surgissent entre les habitants d'une même localité, on avait adopté le principe de la création de justices de paix; des tribunaux judiciaires avaient été organisés dans quinze sandjaks en Anatolie et dans 100 cazas dans les provinces orientales; la Cour d'Appel des vilayets de Bagdad et de Beyrouth avait été divisée en deux; la nomination et la promotion des "naïbs," des juges et des fonctionnaires judiciaires avaient été réglementées par la loi; la circulation de la richesse immobilière avaient été assurée par l'application des lois sur l'hypothèque, le transfert des immeubles et la suppression des "guédiks." En outre, par l'application de la loi qui confère le droit de propriété aux personnes morales, on autorisait la formation de sociétés pouvant faire des transactions sur les immeubles; enfin, la loi élargissant le droit de propriété sur les immeubles, on rendait possible le payement des dettes sur les biens "vakouf" et "miri," même après la mort des détenteurs et des propriétaires. Par cette même loi on instituait un large crédit pour l'agriculture, ce qui permettra l'adoption des mesures pour assurer la prospérité des villes et le développement de l'agriculture.

Au point de vue de la sécurité, le Gouvernement Impérial a envoyé dans chaque vilayet des corps d'inspecteurs de gendarmerie sous la présidence du commandant de gendarmerie français, Baumann Pacha, à l'effet d'étudier sur place le nombre de gendarmes nécessaires à chaque vilayet pour y assurer l'ordre et la sécurité. De plus, des gendarmes de la Turquie d'Europe avaient été envoyés dans plusieurs endroits et d'autres les suivront bientôt à l'effet de compléter les cadres.

Pour assurer la parfaite application des lois et règlements élaborés pour ces divers buts, l'Empire avait été divisé en six secteurs d'inspection générale, dont les secteurs importants comme ceux des vilayets orientaux devront avoir à leur tête des inspecteurs généraux étrangers ayant sous leurs ordres des spécialistes étrangers et ottomans pour la gendarmerie, la justice, les travaux publics et l'agriculture. Enfin, pour certains des départements de l'État on avait adopté le principe de l'engagement d'un conseiller et d'inspecteurs étrangers. Le Cabinet Mahmoud Chevket Pacha était en pourparlers pour l'engagement de tous ces fonctionnaires étrangers, et le Cabinet actuel, poursuivant la même politique et inspiré des mêmes sentiments, poursuit les pourparlers pour l'engagement des commandants de gendarmerie pour les sept régiments des

vilayets orientaux et de deux inspecteurs de gendarmerie pour les deux secteurs comprenant ces vilayets, avec le ferme espoir que ces fonctionnaires pourront bientôt prendre possession de leur poste.

Quant à la réorganisation dans le domaine financier, le Gouvernement Impérial a augmenté le nombre des membres de la Commission financière instituée au Ministère des Finances et ses attributions ont été étendues à l'élaboration du budget et à la surveillance et la stricte application des lois et règlements financiers.

[29681] No. 369.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 229.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 28, 1913.*

ROUMANIAN Minister informs me he has carried out instructions of his Government referred to in Sir G. Barclay's telegram No. 80 of 27th June.

Prime Minister told him he was unable to give an official reply before consulting Cabinet, but that he must express his personal regret at step taken by Roumanian Government in informing him that they would take action the moment war broke out, as it prevented closer relations between the two countries.

Roumanian Minister added that he did not consider formal answer necessary. He had merely been instructed to make a statement.

(Confidential.)

My colleague tells me that mobilisation decree has been signed, but not yet published; no leave, however, is being granted to officers on any consideration.

(Sent to Bucharest.)

[29682] No. 370.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 230.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June 28, 1913.*

BULGARIAN-ROUMANIAN boundary commissioners cannot agree as to what is to be considered periphery of Silistria. Question involves possession of heights dominating the place. It is believed here that matter must be referred to experts.

Roumanian Minister confirms above.

(Sent to Bucharest.)

[29679] No. 371.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 159.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 28, 1913.*

MEETING of Skupshtina on 26th June, referred to in my telegram No. 155 of 25th June, was held with closed doors and no account of proceedings was allowed to transpire. Prime Minister, however, was expected to make a statement publicly before Skupshtina yesterday. This he postponed until Monday, which caused considerable dissatisfaction and led to hostile manifestations.

There has been appreciable stiffening in Servian attitude during the last few days as compared with tone at beginning of week.

This is probably due to warning given by Roumanian Government to Bulgaria as reported in Sir G. Barclay's telegram No. 80 of 27th June.

Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs told me to-day that he thought it doubtful whether Prime Minister would secure vote of confidence. He says that feeling against Servia risking an unfavourable award on the question of vital importance is very strong amongst deputies of all parties.

There appears to have been fresh encounter last night near Sletovo between Servian and Bulgarian troops. Servians owned to six wounded.

(Sent to Sophia and Bucharest.)

[29676] No. 372.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 28, 1913.*

ALBANIA.

I spoke to Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning in the sense of your telegram No. 193 of 26th June. I found him still strongly in favour of prompt nomination of a Prince and the establishment of something definitive in Albania. He thought that Ismail Kemal and the men forming the present Provisional Government might be utilised to rule country at the start. That Albania was capable of self-government was proved by the fact that there was peace and not civil war in the land although no real Government had existed there for months past. He said that he was continually getting appeals from leading Albanians for establishment of a permanent state of things. He added that important question which should be settled without loss of time was the question of financing Albania. With regard to nomination of an international commission to delimit Southern Albania, Minister for Foreign Affairs told me that it was impossible for such a commission to do good work on genuine ethnographical lines so long as places along a possible line of frontier were occupied by the Greek army. He had information that the population were being systematically terrorised by Greeks, and he had learnt quite recently that seventy-two leading Albanians in districts south of Kalamas River, the present Greek frontier, had been murdered. He had been furnished with the names of over twenty of these. To hand over such a purely Albanian district to Greece would be iniquitous. Minister for Foreign Affairs here observed that Albanian group question was for Adriatic powers a political issue, and that they must watch carefully that what was really Albanian should remain within Albania. Minister for Foreign Affairs told me that he would meditate over what I had said to him and would communicate his views to you through the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador.

[29684] No. 373.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 96.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 28, 1913.*

AUSTRIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs told me this morning that he had just received disquieting news from Roumania, who seemed to be on the point of mobilising. He also told me that he had learnt that replies of Bulgaria and Servia to the Russian proposal of arbitration were most unsatisfactory. This, he said, had been confirmed to him by Russian Ambassador yesterday.

[30565] No. 374.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Cartwright.**

(No. 131.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 28, 1913.*

THE Austrian and Italian Ambassadors gave me to-day the following :—

"I.

"La suzeraineté du Sultan doit être écartée.

"II.

"L'Albanie sera constituée en principauté indépendante et héréditaire par ordre de primogéniture. Le Prince sera désigné par les six Puissances.

"L'Albanie sera neutralisée. Sa neutralité sera garantie par les six Puissances.

"III.

"Dès que la délimitation générale de l'Albanie sera achevée et le pays aura été évacué par les troupes des alliés, une commission internationale de contrôle composée

* Also to Sir R. Rodd (No. 166).

des délégués des six Puissances et d'un délégué de l'Albanie sera chargée d'élaborer un projet d'organisation détaillé de toutes les branches de l'administration de l'Albanie. Quant à l'organisation judiciaire, la commission s'inspirera des principes du régime appliqué en Égypte. Cette commission présentera aux Puissances dans un délai de six mois un rapport sur le résultat de ces travaux, ainsi que ces conclusions au sujet de l'organisation administrative et financière du pays.

"Les pouvoirs de cette commission dureront cinq ans et pourront être renouvelés en cas de besoin."

They explained that it was given to me privately, before they decided to mention it at the *réunion*.

I observed that to raise the question of the suzerainty of the Sultan was to reopen what had already been settled at the *réunion*.

They urged that the suzerainty of the Sultan had been put in originally because it was thought that it would please the Turks. Now it appeared that Turkey did not desire to have any connection maintained with Albania, and to maintain a connection might afford a pretext for involving Albania in subsequent troubles between Turkey and the Balkan States. It would, therefore, be much better that there should be no connection between Turkey and Albania; and, as in the original resolution of the *réunion* it was expressly said that the suzerainty was to be purely nominal, there could be no harm in abolishing it.

I said that it might be that it was not of much importance, but the proposal to abolish it would give rise to a good deal of discussion, and would consume time. They must know very well that, when a Government put forward a proposal to reopen something that had been settled, the matter had to be referred to the Foreign Offices of other countries; that they at once asked what was the motive behind such a proposal; and that they very likely invented some motive that they thought was the origin of it, and in consequence set to work to find reasons for opposing it.

The Ambassadors said that, though they had no instructions to this effect, perhaps point No. I on the paper they had given me might be omitted, as it was superfluous if No. II was accepted.

I observed that the first part of No. III seemed to be on the lines that I had already suggested in my telegram to Vienna, of which I gave them a paraphrase, as I had already done to the other Ambassadors.

The Austrian and Italian Ambassadors said that their instructions were that No. III, which they regarded as a concession to the French view, could be put forward only if Nos. I and II were accepted.

I am, &c.
E. GREY.

[29357] No. 375.

*Foreign Office to Treasury.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 28, 1913.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Paris,† forwarding a report from the British delegate on the Commission sitting at Paris to settle the financial questions arising out of the late war, in which Sir P. Harvey enquires the views of His Majesty's Government as to the disposal of the balance of the year's Cyprus revenues which remains after the interest of the guaranteed loan of 1855 has been paid, and which has hitherto been retained with a view to the ultimate amortisation of the loan.

It will be seen that the Servian delegate on the Commission is anxious, for obvious reasons, that this balance should be paid over to the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt, and deducted from the sum of £ T. 130,000 assigned to the tobacco tithe.

I am to state that Sir E. Grey would be glad to receive an early expression of the views of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury as to the reply which should be returned to Sir P. Harvey's enquiry.

I am to add that a similar letter has been addressed to the Colonial Office.

I am, &c.
LOUIS MALLET.

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* Also to Colonial Office, *mutatis mutandis*.

† No. 349.

[29677] No. 376.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 303. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 29, 1913.*

TURKISH Government have invited foreign commission of Financial Department to draft a law which will confer on its members very extensive powers of control of that department.

Action of Government has evidently been prompted by fear of imposition of foreign financial control.

Mr. Graves informs me confidentially that, if law is accepted as at present drafted, foreign commission will have entire control over all the departments of Ministry of Finance.

[29680] No. 377.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 160.)
(Telegraphic.) R. *Belgrade, June 29, 1913.*

PRESS telegram reports that Montenegrin army has arrived at Uskub, and has been received with much enthusiasm. Troops said to number about 14,000.

(Sent to Sophia and Cettinjé.)

[29853] No. 378.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 138.)
Sir, *Athens, June 23, 1913.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 93 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report that, in reply to the Greek proposal for a simultaneous reduction of armed forces in Macedonia and a cessation of the concentration of Bulgarian troops upon the Greek lines, the Bulgarian Government have recalled the incessant and systematic advance of the Greek troops, driving before them the weak Bulgarian detachments left in the country after the withdrawal into Thrace of the forces which had operated in Macedonia; the concentration of the Greek army with the whole of its artillery, after the fall of Yannina, in the district of Salonica, where there was no enemy to fight; and the sanguinary affrays provoked by the aggressive attitude of Greece. They complain that Greece showed no disposition to enter into negotiations for fixing priority of occupation, and that their delegate was unable to proceed to Athens on account of the refusal of the Greek Government. They declare that the Bulgarian element in Macedonia is persecuted by the Greeks, and point out that the proposal for a reduction of forces comes badly from Greece, which is continually increasing hers. Nevertheless, as an earnest of their desire to settle the international questions pacifically, the Bulgarian Government might accept the proposal in principle if the Greek Government consents beforehand to a joint occupation of the territories first occupied by the Bulgarian troops as well as of those first occupied by the Greek troops. In a final protest against the arrests and incessant molestations to which Bulgarians are exposed in regions occupied by Greece, the Bulgarian Government declare that they will no longer tolerate that their people should be dragged from their homes in districts belonging to the condominium of the allies, and they throw the whole responsibility of the regrettable consequences that may follow these acts of violence and cruelty upon Greece.

The reply is taken here as a provocation and an insult; the accusations of violence and cruelty are denied, and met with counter-accusations, with full details, of outrages committed by Bulgarians upon Greeks. Very little hope of a peaceful issue remains. The King left for Salonica yesterday evening, taking with him his sons the Crown Prince and Prince Alexander, and Princes Andrew and Christopher. Owing to the gravity of the situation the departure of the Queen for Berlin and Wiesbaden was countermanded at the last moment, and Her Majesty forgoes a change of air and "cure" of which she is in great need.

M. Venizelos made yesterday, through the Russian Minister, the suggestion that Russia should, in the first instance, decide between Servia and Bulgaria whether the

treaty between them is to be regarded as valid or not, and then, whatever the decision on that point, that Russia, in conjunction with another Power, should arbitrate upon the whole question of partition among the allies.

I have, &c.
F. ELLIOT.

[29822] No. 379.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 123.)
Sir, *Belgrade, June 23, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 112 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a communication which was yesterday circulated by the Official Press Bureau with regard to statements which have appeared in the Bulgarian press to the effect that it was M. de Hartwig who promised Servia territory up to the right bank of the Vardar in return for her renunciation of the Albanian littoral.*

I do not think that this communication will carry conviction to the minds of most people in Belgrade, where it is known to what an exaggerated degree M. de Hartwig has espoused the Servian cause, and where statements made by himself at various times are remembered against him. Moreover, with regard to M. Pashitch's declaration that the offer was made by another Power, I can but repeat the statement made in my despatch above referred to, that it seems incredible, supposing the offer to have been made by Austria, that he should lose so good an opportunity of sowing discord between Austria and Bulgaria.

It may of course be that M. Pashitch has in mind some suggestion made by Professor Masaryk, who visited Belgrade during November and December last; but it appeared subsequently from statements made by Count Berchtold to Sir F. Cartwright that Professor Masaryk, in endeavouring to constitute himself a go-between between Vienna and Belgrade, was acting entirely on his own initiative, and had no official standing whatever (see my despatches Nos. 93 and 109 of the 24th November and 17th December last).

I have, &c.
RALPH PAGET.

[29744] No. 380.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 111.)
Sir, *Sophia, June 24, 1913.*

ON the 18th instant M. Danef held his first reception of the foreign representatives, and I had the honour to send to you the gist of his conversation with me in my telegram No. 216, and despatch No. 108 of that date.

I called on the Prime Minister again on the 21st instant, in view of the critical state of affairs, and I have nothing to add to the remarks he made to me on this occasion beyond the report contained in my telegram No. 220 of the same day.

I had the honour to receive your telegram No. 123, instructing me to express the hope that the Bulgarian Government will reply favourably to the invitation of the Russian Government to a conference at St. Petersburgh, and stating that you were concerned at the outlook. Immediately on its receipt I called on the Prime Minister by appointment. M. Danef asked me to convey to you his thanks for your message, and for the interest you displayed in the crisis. He must, however, he added, continue to adhere to his former statements, viz., that he could not see his way to proceeding to St. Petersburgh unless he received assurances that the provisions of the existing treaty between Bulgaria and Servia would be strictly carried out. He did not care whether these assurances were given to him officially, semi-officially, or privately, but he must have them. He then commenced to argue the matter from a legal point of view (M. Danef is a lawyer), first from the Bulgarian side, and then from what he considered to be the Servian side of the case. He contended that if the Servian Prime

* Not printed.

Minister went to St. Petersburgh the Servian Government could put their case before the Emperor in full, which he seemed to think was what they really wanted to do, in order to make a show of having defended Servian interests. The Servian Government well knew, he argued, that Bulgaria would not renounce Monastir, or in fact any of her claims under the treaty, and no one really wanted war. M. Danef continued some time in this strain, and I made no remarks. He then, however, went on to say that even if such a calamity as war occurred, he felt sure that once it was over the Balkan States would settle their differences, and again unite for all time. Bulgaria did not want to see Servia disappear, but was only too glad to maintain a buffer State between Austria-Hungary and herself. Bulgaria alone, even a greater Bulgaria, was but a small State, whereas the Balkan States, including Greece, would together be a permanent factor to deal with, and would be far from a negligible quantity. It was so apparent that it would be to their great future advantage to work together in harmony that he could not but believe that the future outlook was a good one.

I took this opportunity to observe that a fratricidal war scarcely seemed to be the best way of attaining the excellent object he had in view, and I again asked his Excellency to give a favourable reply to the Russian Government, with which he is on such excellent terms. M. Danef then stated that he did not believe that the Russian Government had said their last word either at Belgrade or perhaps even at Sophia. He thought that if great pressure was brought to bear at Belgrade M. Pashitch would go to St. Petersburgh without insisting on any previous conditions, and, in that event, peace would be preserved. The difficulty now was to restrain the army: the soldiers insisted on either fighting at once or being demobilised. They had been on duty since October; large numbers of them were peasants, and they knew that if they were not back for the harvest their wives and children would, in many cases, starve in the course of the winter. I informed M. Danef that the above circumstance gave the Bulgarian Government an excellent reason to favour a speedy demobilisation.

As a result of this conversation I left with the feeling that if only the Greek and Servian Prime Ministers could be induced to proceed to St. Petersburgh peace might be preserved.

I am forwarding copy of this despatch to His Majesty's Minister at Belgrade.

I have, &c.
H. O. BAX-IRONSIDE.

[29695] No. 381.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 556.)
Sir, *Constantinople, June 25, 1913.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 526 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's consul-general at Salonica reporting on the arrest of Bulgarians in Salonica.

I have, &c.
GERARD LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 381.

Consul-General Lamb to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 53.)
Sir, *Salonica, June 20, 1913.*

WITH reference to the third paragraph of my immediately preceding despatch of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that the arrests, imprisonments, and expulsions of Bulgarians in this district have continued to take place with increasing frequency. Amongst the persons recently expelled is the journalist Naumof, correspondent here for the Bulgarian Telegraphic Agency, while the arrests include that of the principle Bulgarian bookseller, Samardjief. At the same time, Bulgarian families desirous of leaving the place have been refused permission to do so. It is attempted to justify these measures by the alleged intention of the Bulgarians in this city to resort to bomb outrages and other forms of violence for the sake of creating disturbances and discrediting the Greek administration; but it is only fair to the Bulgars to admit that, whatever threats may have been uttered in irresponsible (and even other) quarters, the actual conduct of the Bulgarian element in this city has been

correct, and domiciliary visits, instituted in the Bulgarian quarters for the purpose of discovering arms and dynamite, have in general yielded relatively meagre results. According to a semi-official statement, the total haul has hitherto consisted of 51 Mauser rifles, 73 revolvers, and some 4,000 cartridges, about half of the latter, with 8 rifles and 7 revolvers, having been discovered in the Bulgarian Commercial School. One or two old bombs were found in the house of a widow, who is said by the Bulgarians to have been badly beaten in consequence.

On the 17th instant, considerable excitement was caused by its becoming known that the occupants of a large block of buildings, comprising eight or ten apartments, and situated on one of the principal boulevards, had received orders from the military authorities to evacuate the premises in less than twenty-four hours in order to provide quarters for Greek troops. All intervention and entreaty proved useless, even to obtain a more reasonable delay for evacuation, and by the following evening troops were in possession of the whole block. As there are now fewer Greek soldiers in the town itself than there have been at any other period during the last six months, the reason for this measure was not apparent, but it was understood to be that the building in question faces another on the opposite side of the road which is occupied by Bulgarian troops and which it is desired to command.

The measure has naturally been variously commented on, and has given rise to a state of apprehension not far removed from panic in certain sections of the population; and, in the absence of any more convincing explanation than has yet been officially put forward by the authorities, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the Greek general staff, from which the decision emanated, has under the influence of exaggerated secret reports allowed its sober judgment to be somewhat disturbed, and is thereby letting itself play into the hands of its opponents, whose manifest object it is to create a scare.

Amongst the reasons given by the Greeks in justification of their action is the alleged surreptitious increase in the Bulgarian force quartered in the city. This had been reduced latterly to between 500 and 600 men, and is now said to have been raised again to 1,200 or even 2,000, although no fresh soldiers have been known to enter the place. The explanation given is that komitajis and peasants who have come in singly or in small bands have been armed and equipped from stores accumulated in the St. Sophia mosque and sent to augment the various posts. There is probably much truth in this, though it is easy to exaggerate the importance of the fact, if true.

In any case the measures recently adopted here, whether intended as measures of precaution or reprisals, have indisputably still further embittered and intensified the feelings of hatred and animosity, already sufficiently violent, between the two peoples, and rendered a peaceable settlement of the matters in dispute between them even more impossible than it was before.

I have, &c.
HARRY H. LAMB.

[29823] No. 382.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 124.)
Sir, *Belgrade, June 25, 1913.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Peckham regarding the enrolment by the Servian authorities of so-called volunteers.

The Secretary-General to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs told me a few days ago that the Montenegrin authorities had offered some 10,000 men for the support of Servia in the event of war with Bulgaria. The Montenegrin troops will in all probability merely be employed to occupy the places on the north-eastern frontier of Albania and the sanjak of Novi-Bazar when the Servian troops are withdrawn, and to watch the population in the newly occupied territories.

I have, &c.
RALPH PAGET.

Enclosure in No. 382.

Vice-Consul Peckham to Sir R. Paget.

(No. 29.)

Sir, *Uskub, June* 19, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to report that the forced volunteering, reported in my despatch No. 25 of the 5th instant, continues.

I presume that the headquarter staff is not so misguided as to imagine that these men, strangers to military discipline, if not to the use of arms, called to the colours at the eleventh hour to fight in a quarrel where they have no sympathies, or sympathise with the enemy, will be of any use as soldiers.

M. Vuchkovich assured me that the authorities had no desire to force any man to volunteer, but that the minor local authorities, out of an excess of zeal, used pressure to bring their contingents to as high a figure as possible. Steps were being taken to send back men who did not want to volunteer. In support of this he quoted the case of a batch of Kachanik Albanians, who had, as I had heard from another quarter, been sent home on the Uskub authorities being satisfied that they did not want to volunteer. But I suspect that this account has been prepared for foreign consumption, "excess of zeal on the part of minor officials" being a favourite excuse in this part of the world for irregularities too well proved to be denied. It is to be presumed that, if the higher authorities wished to prevent the use of force, they would have sent out stringent instructions to that effect. The fact that forced volunteers continue to come in seems to me to prove that no such orders have been sent. And M. Vuchkovich gravely damaged his reputation for veracity by solemnly assuring me that the Exarchist Church in the Servian sphere of occupation had not been interfered with in any way (my information, which is uniformly to the contrary; is derived not merely from Bulgar, but also from unbiassed, *e.g.*, Jewish sources.)

I think it much more likely that these men are being taken as hostages in case a Serbo-Bulgarian war produces a revolt in the occupied territory. Some time ago I heard that the Montenegrin Government at Dyakovo had taken one hostage from each Albanian family there, and the collection of *e.g.*, Bulgars and Albanians from the Kalkandelen Valley might prevent a local revolt, or, at least, diminish the men available for it.

I hear that two Bulgar bands, of twenty-five to thirty men each, are operating in the neighbourhood of Kalkandelen (Tetovo) and Gostivar respectively. I also hear of similar bands in Dibra and Reka (Monastir vilayet).

With regard to the question of the possibility of a revolt on the outbreak of war with Bulgaria, I hear one consistent account from all sources, except the Servian Government. Discontent is practically universal; the Servians are considered far worse than the Turks. (In my opinion, enough allowance is not made for the improvised and temporary nature of their administration.) And it is in accordance with all probability that at least a section of the inhabitants should rise in a last despairing attempt to secure their annexation to Bulgaria and Albania respectively.

I have previously reported (my despatch No. 24 of the 21st April) that lack of arms would probably prevent the Albanians making any effective diversion in case of war. I have no fresh information on the subject, but would point out that, given the temper of the Albanians and their experience in the arms traffic, the quantity of rifles in mid-Kossovo is likely to increase rather than decrease as negotiations for a settlement drag on.

I have, &c.
W. D. PECKHAM.

[29824] No. 383.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 125.)

Sir, *Belgrade, June* 25, 1913.

ON the 20th instant M. de Hartwig, under instructions from his Government, made a strong representation to the Servian Government urging them to agree to submit unconditionally to the arbitration of the Czar in their dispute with Bulgaria. The following day a Cabinet Council was held at which the King was present, and after a protracted sitting, M. Pashitch, who counselled compliance with the Russian advice, finding strong opposition on the part of several of his colleagues in the Ministry, tendered his resignation.

I understood from the Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, whom I saw the following morning, that it was the intention of the King to call the chiefs of the several political parties in consultation, and to be guided in the choice of a Government by their recommendations, but I subsequently learnt from M. de Hartwig that the King did not actually accept M. Pashitch's resignation, and that the latter, at his (M. de Hartwig's) instance, and on realising that his resignation might to some extent appear as an affront to the Czar, eventually agreed to remain in office should he find it impossible to reconstruct a Ministry.

As all the Ministers except the Minister for War and the Minister of Justice appear to have gradually come round to M. Pashitch's view, and have again rallied to him, this should not now present any very great difficulty. In order to strengthen his own position, the Prime Minister will to-morrow inform the Skupshtina of the circumstances under which he tendered his resignation, and will ask for their decision as to whether he shall remain in office, his policy being to accept for Servia the arbitration of the Czar without any reserves.

It seems probable that M. Pashitch, who is an adept at managing the various political parties, has already arranged for a vote of confidence, in which case, so far as Servia is responsible, a pacific solution of the present crisis is almost assured.

But while M. Pashitch is thus obeying the orders of Russia and exerting himself on behalf of peace, he is at the same time incurring considerable odium in the country. Granting that he may be able to carry through his policy at the present juncture, his position will be altogether untenable if the Czar's award be given against Servia. The whole press with the exception of the Government organ "Samouprava" is most violent in its denunciations, not only of M. Pashitch, but also of King Peter and of the Russian Government. M. Pashitch and the King are accused in the first place of criminal weakness now, and secondly of criminal stupidity in ever having permitted a treaty to be drawn up all in favour of Bulgaria.

This reflection seems to show that it is dawning upon the majority of intelligent Servians that from a strictly legal point of view right is on the side of Bulgaria. But even if this be so, it does not alter their determination to persist in their view that the treaty must be set aside, and the discontent in the country may become extremely pronounced if the Czar's decision be unfavourable to Servian aspirations.

The official argument as represented to me by M. de Hartwig, and upon which I gather the Servian case when put before the Czar will to a great extent rely, is that according to the text of the treaty, the disputable territory within which the Czar may fix any frontier line he considers expedient between Servian and Bulgarian possessions in Macedonia, consists of the whole area between the Chardagh and the Rhodope mountains, and not as contended by Bulgaria, merely between the Chardagh and a line drawn from the Egri Palanka to the head of Lake Ochrida.

So far as I have been able to judge this interpretation of the text is not the natural one, and is scarcely likely to represent the intention of the negotiators of the treaty. In addition to the above argument, M. Pashitch will no doubt put forward the well known grievances, namely that Bulgaria did not fulfill her obligations under the treaty as regards men, that Servia cannot afford to be cut off from Salonica by Bulgaria, and that if Bulgaria receives the territory she demands, the equilibrium of the Balkan alliance will be destroyed and Servia will eventually be crushed out of existence.

I have, &c.
RALPH PAGET.

[29790] No. 384.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 196.)

Sir, *St. Petersburgh, June* 26, 1913.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom I saw yesterday for the first time since his recent indisposition, told me that the Bulgarian Minister had just informed him that his Government could not accept arbitration except on the basis of the treaty, and that, as the attitude of the Servian Government rendered arbitration on these lines impossible, they had decided to recall their Minister from Belgrade. This decision, his Excellency said, was tantamount to a declaration of war, and hostilities would probably commence at once. He had consequently taken M. Bobchef severely to task,

and had told him that, as Bulgaria was acting as a traitor to the Slav cause, Russia formally denounced the Treaty of 1902, under which she had engaged, *inter alia*, to come to the assistance of Bulgaria should the latter be attacked by Roumania. I had, his Excellency continued, recently asked him what we were to do in the event of a conflict breaking out between the allies, and he must confess that he was at his wits' end, as he could not see that there was anything to be done except to try to localise the war. Roumania would probably restrict her action to the occupation of the territory comprised within a line drawn from Turtukai to Baltchik, and Bulgaria, he believed, would agree to the cession of this territory. On my remarking that it was possible that Roumania might be tempted to join forces with Greece and Servia, in order to prevent Bulgaria becoming too powerful and eventually retaking the territory which she had promised to cede, his Excellency said that this was not impossible, and that he would not be sorry were Roumania to take this course. In neither case, he added, would Russia intervene.

On my remarking that it was hardly to our interest to drive Bulgaria into the arms of Austria by taking up too uncompromising an attitude, his Excellency said that there was but little danger of this, as Bulgaria would not go too far in this direction and would in the end have to turn once more to Russia.

In my telegram No. 230, Secret, of the 22nd instant I reported that Prince Nicholas of Greece was using all his influence to induce the Russian Government to egg on Roumania to active intervention in the coming war, but I was under the impression that, while M. Sazonof was ready to use Roumania as a bogey wherewith to frighten the Bulgarians, he would not go so far as actually to encourage her to attack Bulgaria in the rear. From his language yesterday it would almost look as if he was prepared to go this length, though I cannot help feeling that an active participation of Roumania in the war would still further complicate the situation. M. Sazonof tells me that, in the opinion of the Russian military attaché at Sophia, the Bulgarians are strong enough to defeat the united Greek and Servian forces, provided the latter are not supported by either the Turks or the Roumanians. In the event of the Bulgarians being victorious there will be no danger of an armed intervention on the part of Austria-Hungary, but should they be defeated, as they undoubtedly will be if the Roumanians take the field, Servia will acquire an accession of territory that may be regarded by Austria as incompatible with her interests. In that case we may again be confronted with an acute international crisis. I am, however, doubtful as to whether M. Sazonof's present anti-Bulgarian policy will meet with general approval in this country. So far as can be judged from articles which have recently appeared in the press and from speeches which have been delivered in the Duma, public sympathy is rather on the side of Bulgaria than of Servia. The former is, indeed, blamed for refusing to submit to the Emperor's unconditional arbitration, but Bulgaria's claims to Macedonia have been recognised by Russia in the Treaty of San Stefano and are generally regarded as indisputable both on historical and ethnographical grounds. The history of Bulgaria for the last thirty years has been so closely bound up with the Macedonian question that it is impossible to ask her to renounce her claims to that province. So much, indeed, is this the case that M. Sazonof told me yesterday that the Bulgarian Government had declared that they would sooner give up Adrianople than abandon any of their claims to Macedonia.

Now also that the Emperor's telegrams to the Kings of Servia and Bulgaria have entirely failed to induce those sovereigns to obey His Majesty's express commands M. Sazonof is being severely censured for having compromised the Emperor's prestige and for having exposed Russia to a serious rebuff.

On the other hand, M. Sazonof is at one with Russian public opinion in attributing to Austrian intrigues the present deplorable sequel to the Balkan Alliance. Count Tisza's recent speech was, he remarked yesterday, very symptomatic of Austrian policy. He would not, he said, have attached much importance to it had it been but the expression of Count Tisza's personal views, but it was impossible to overlook a speech that had been directly inspired by Count Berchtold. The view generally taken by the press is that the speech but confirms what it has all along said of the rôle of Austria-Hungary during the recent crisis. Austrian diplomacy, it declares, is still inspired by the principle of *divide et impera*, and will stop at nothing to bring about war between the Balkan States.

I have, &c.
GEORGE W. BUCHANAN.

[29859]

No. 385.

Mr. Carnegie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 350.)

Sir,

Paris, June 28, 1913.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a memorandum which I have addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs under the instructions conveyed to me by your despatch No. 399, Confidential, of the 26th instant, in regard to the security for the fresh small advances required by the Turkish Government for administrative purposes.

I have, &c.
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

Enclosure in No. 385.

Memorandum communicated to M. Pichon.

HIS Majesty's Government are aware that at a recent meeting of the Board of the Imperial Ottoman Bank a discussion took place in regard to the temporary measures to be taken in order to meet the present financial exigencies at Constantinople, and that it was agreed that some steps were necessary so as to provide sufficient money to enable the Turkish Government to carry on the administration pending the general settlement which will take place after the International Financial Commission has presented its report. Consultations are said to be now proceeding between the financial establishments interested with a view to finding some way of furnishing the small advances required for this purpose. A suggestion has, however, been put forward by the French group that steps should be taken for an early consolidation of the outstanding advances to the Turkish Government in the form of a new short term loan, *e.g.*, for five years at 7 per cent. interest. This might be a convenient method of removing the difficulties connected with the renewal of the outstanding advances, some of which are already running on at a high rate of interest, but it appears to His Majesty's Government that this proposal requires consideration from the political as well as from the financial point of view. It has been represented to them that, at the present moment, it would be unwise to enter into any consolidation arrangement requiring fresh guarantees on revenues not already assigned, as this would prejudice the question as to guarantees which is about to be discussed by the International Financial Commission, and that furthermore it is important that no unassigned revenues should be pledged just now until it be possible to form an opinion as to the nature of the guarantees which may be required for the general settlement which must immediately follow the conclusion of the labours of the commission.

Putting aside, however, this view of the matter, it would appear desirable to subordinate all these financial operations to the institution of effective measures of administration and economic reform in Asia Minor, as such measures will, in the long run, afford the only real guarantees for the stability of the financial situation.

His Majesty's Government consider that the foregoing arguments are well founded and that it would be preferable that the fresh small advance required by the Turkish Government should be guaranteed, if possible, on securities other than revenues not already assigned.

It has been suggested to His Majesty's Government that the fresh advance should be secured on a mortgage on the lands and buildings at Tophané, and His Majesty's Minister has the honour, by direction of Sir Edward Grey, to bring the proposal to the notice of the French Government as being one which deserves their immediate consideration. It appears that the Ottoman Government have already made attempts to sell the land and buildings in question. The land is really required for the extension of the port and quays on the Galata side, a matter in which the shareholders of the Quay Compaay are interested. The land runs the risk of falling into the hands of speculators, who are already making offers, and it would be in the general interest if a lien could be secured on it by means of a mortgage, as security for advances to the Turkish Government to an amount of, *e.g.*, £ T. 600,000. This is the amount at which the Quay Company first estimated the value of the property, but it is probably worth much more. An advance secured on a mortgage on these lines, besides obviating the necessity of assigning as security revenues not already engaged, would prevent any

speculative developments contrary to French and British interests in the ports and quays, and it is a matter which the French and British groups could take up without prejudice to German interests.

British Embassy, Paris, June 28, 1913.

[29860] No. 386.

Mr. Carnegie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 351. Confidential.)

Sir, *Paris, June* 28, 1913.

WITH the view of carrying out the instructions contained in the last paragraph of your despatch No. 400 of the 26th instant, I called on M. de Margerie this afternoon and impressed on him the importance which His Majesty's Government attach to the support of the French Government in resisting the proposal for the payment of a war indemnity by Turkey to the Balkan States.

M. de Margerie replied that the French Government were also opposed in principle to the payment by Turkey of a war indemnity, but, owing to the attitude adopted by Russia in regard to this question, they were placed in a difficult position. He said that he was glad, however, to perceive indications that Russia was inclined to be more reasonable, and that he had reason to believe that the small encouragement which M. Raffalovich had met with during his recent visit to London had exercised a sobering effect upon him. M. de Margerie went on to say that some compromise would have to be found, and repeated to me the remarks which he had made on the 21st instant, which I had the honour to report to you in my despatch No. 14 ("Financial Commission" Series) of the 22nd June.

In regard to the position of the French bondholders, M. de Margerie continued, he could tell me confidentially that the French Government were determined that, even should the Balkan States refuse to pay a penny of their share of the Turkish Debt, the bondholders should not suffer any loss. I enquired on whom would fall the expense of meeting the bondholders' claims. He said on Turkey, but without inflicting any material damage on her, as the Administration of the Debt would find it possible to meet most if not all the requirements of the bondholders from the revenues already under their control.

I left a brief memorandum embodying your instructions with M. de Margerie, who promised to lay it before M. Pichon and to communicate to me the views of the French Government at an early date.

I have, &c.
LANCELOT D. CARNEGIE.

[29786] No. 387.

Sir G. Buchanan to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 239. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June* 29, 1913.

YOUR telegram No. 481 of 27th June.

Minister for Foreign Affairs entirely shares your views, though he is not confident that Austria and Germany will accept principle of non-intervention. The Bulgarian Government have, his Excellency informed me, accepted arbitration without insisting on their former conditions. They confined themselves to expressing actively the hope that Russian Government would observe spirit of treaty and not abandon them. Servia has not yet definitely accepted, but his Excellency hopes that they will do so. He said that Bulgaria must have Macedonia, as otherwise there would be war. Bulgaria had spent thousands of lives and large sums of money on Macedonia, whereas Servia had hardly lost a single man. Difficulty would be so to arrange matters as to give Servia and Greece a common frontier.

His Excellency attributes present Bulgarian attitude to the fear of Roumania. The King had told the Russian Minister that he could not allow Servia to be crushed, and that as Austria [group undecypherable] too large accession of territory to Servia, he could not permit Bulgaria to become too powerful. Russian and Roumanian interests were, His Majesty added, identic.

[30262] No. 388.

Memorandum communicated by Count Mensdorff, June 30, 1913.

DANS la réunion du 20 mai, les amiraux à Scutari ont décidé qu'il était interdit d'arborer des pavillons albanais sur tous les édifices publics, parmi lesquels les églises et mosquées étaient expressément nommées.

Cette décision paraît absolument justifiée par le fait de l'administration provisoire des amiraux, par rapport aux édifices officiels ; quant aux églises et mosquées, qui ne sont pas des établissements officiels, un différent point de vue doit être pris en considération.

Il paraît évident que les amiraux croyaient devoir refuser aux églises et mosquées le droit, accordé du reste aux maisons privées, d'arborer le pavillon albanais, par égard pour les troupes monténégrines, qui alors (20 mai) étaient encore à Scutari.

Le terme pour l'évacuation de Scutari par les Monténégrins étant depuis écoulé, la mesure en question ne paraît plus avoir de raison d'être.

Le Gouvernement austro-hongrois est, en outre, d'avis qu'il ne serait même pas opportun de maintenir plus longtemps cette mesure prise par les amiraux, pour la seule raison que, contrairement aux arrangements, il se trouve toujours encore des détachements monténégrins dans la ville de Scutari.

Le Contre-amiral Niegovan a reçu l'instruction de soumettre à la prochaine occasion les vues du Gouvernement austro-hongrois à la réunion des amiraux et de proposer que la décision du 20 mai soit abolie quant aux églises et mosquées.

Le Comte Berchtold serait reconnaissant si l'Amiral Burney pouvait recevoir l'instruction d'adhérer à la proposition de son collègue d'Autriche-Hongrie.

Ambassade d'Autriche-Hongrie, Londres,
le 30 *juin*, 1913.

[30019] No. 389.

Sir R. Paget to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 161.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June* 30, 1913.

I HAVE seen the Prime Minister on his return from the Skuptshtina. He had made his declaration of policy, and said that debate was proceeding, and, he thought, favourably, when he received news that Bulgarian army had attacked in force, and with artillery, at Ishtip, Valandovo, and Ghevgheli. He appeared to be depressed and preoccupied, and I gathered from his remarks that Bulgarians had taken the latter place. In the circumstances debate was broken up.

The Prime Minister said he supposed that Bulgaria would now at last withdraw Bulgarian Minister.

(Sent to Sophia and Bucharest.)

[30029] No. 390.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 106.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June* 30, 1913.

LAST night Bulgarians attacked Servians and Greeks along whole line without notice. Greeks fell back, and Bulgarians occupied Ghevgheli.

Fighting also at Nigrita and Elevtherai.

"Averof" is at latter port. Minister for Foreign Affairs expects big battle at Kilkis in two or three days.

King of Greece, who had returned to Athens on 25th June, left for Salonica this afternoon.

(Confidential.)

Prime Minister has told Russian Minister that he would still accept from the Bulgarian Government declaration that what had occurred was a mistake. Formal protest is being made at Sophia.

(Sent to Bucharest.)

[30030] No. 391.

Sir F. Elliot to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June* 30, 1913.

MY telegram No. 106 of 30th June.

M. Venizelos has just called. He did not repeat statement he made to Russian Minister, although I gave him an opportunity. He thought that Bulgarian Government would not admit a mistake unless their troops suffered a reverse.

He said he had done everything to prevent a rupture, even agreeing to negotiations between Servia and Bulgaria alone, although he held that right principle was that discussion of partition should be between the four allies.

Bulgaria has attacked without warning, and Greece will take measures required by military situation, including counter-attack if necessary.

The King will command in the field.

(Sent to Bucharest.)

[30031] No. 392.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 231.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June* 30, 1913.

MY telegrams No. 218 of 21st June and No. 223 of 23rd June.

Headquarters staff announce following :—

"Servians attacked near Sletovo yesterday; result unknown. Greeks attacked north of Leftera and were repulsed after sharp engagement.

"Fighting is said to be still going on. Bulgarian Government have protested at Athens and Belgrade and declined all responsibility for consequences."

(Sent to Bucharest and Belgrade.)

[30032] No. 393.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 232.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June* 30, 1913.

SIR G. BUCHANAN'S telegram No. 228 of 21st June, last paragraph.

Should Monastir become Bulgarian, Greece and Servia could only hope for conterminous frontier in region between Monastir and Albania. If Koritza becomes Albanian, this connection is almost closed to them. Hence Austrian attitude and importance of question, which, even in the event of war, will probably come up for future settlement. Bulgaria, if conterminous with Albania, would dominate the Balkan situation, and there would be constant grave discontent amongst other States.

[30033] No. 394.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 233.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, June* 30, 1913.

MY telegram No. 231 of 30th June.

Servian chargé d'affaires hears from his Government that Bulgarians were aggressors both against Greeks and Servians.

He says that his latest despatches have not reached Belgrade, couriers having apparently been detained between Sophia and frontier last night.

(Sent to Belgrade and Bucharest.)

[30034] No. 395.

Sir G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, June* 30, 1913.

BELGRADE telegram No. 159 of 28th June.

Servia should not count too much on Roumanian warning to Bulgaria.

Should the Skupshtina's vote be against submission to Russian arbitration it is doubtful how far Roumania would carry out her threats.

(Confidential.)

The Minister of the Interior told the French Minister yesterday that in that case she would merely concentrate troops on the frontier.

I understand that at the Russian Minister's instigation the Servian Minister has telegraphed to his Government in this sense.

(Sent to Sophia and Belgrade.)

[30036] No. 396.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 30, 1913.

FOLLOWING from military attaché for Director of Military Operations :—

"Following from Bulgarian sources :—

"On 29th June encounters took place between Bulgarians and Servians at Zletovo and betweeen Bulgarians and Greeks at Leftera. In both cases Bulgarian outpost troops, including regular infantry, were attacked. Both sides receiving considerable reinforcements, including artillery, encounters were on a considerable scale.

"To-day all is reported quiet, Bulgarians holding their positions and allies in each case withdrawing. Following is detail of Servian deployment :—

"First army (headquarters at Pirot) between Pirot–Bella Paldoeska–Wlassobaszi.

"Timok division, 1st and 2nd Bans; Schumadia division, 2nd Ban.

"Second, third, and part of fourth armies (headquarters of second army, Uskub; of third army, Veles) between Kumanovo–Egri Paldoeska–Uskub–Kavfiear–Veles.

"Danau division, 1st and 2nd Bans; Morava, 1st and 2nd Bans; Schumadia, 1st Ban; Drina, 1st Ban; independent cavalry division.

"Fourth army (headquarters at Prisrend) between Prisrend and Pristina–Drina, 2nd Ban; Morava, independent brigade, between Dibra and Ocrida. Yavor, independent brigade, north of Mitrovitza.

"Half 3rd Ban is distributed over the area of Prilep–Monastir, and the remainder in the north between Zeitcher and Negotin.

"It is believed that 8th Greek division from Epirus is on its way to Salonica."

[29142] No. 397.

Foreign Office to Messrs. Francis and Johnson.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1913.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, relative to information required by the British delegates in the Commission sitting in Paris to settle the financial questions arising out of the Balkan war as to contracts or concessions held by British subjects in the territories ceded by Turkey to the allied Balkan States.

In reply to the enquiry contained in your letter, I am to state that it would be advisable to furnish copies of the French translation of the firman to which you refer rather than of the Turkish original, and that it is unnecessary that these should be authenticated.

I am to add that, in a later communication, Sir P. Harvey states that he has obtained the consent of the Committee appointed by the Commission from among its

members to examine questions of this nature to the consideration of the concession in question, even though the date of the firman was subsequent to the outbreak of hostilities, and he asks to be furnished with twelves copies of the convention and "cahier des charges" relative thereto.

I am accordingly to request that this demand may be complied with if any such documents are in existence.

I am, &c.
LOUIS MALLET.